

Pohanka

Automotive Group

Since 1919

Chair Marc Korman, Vice-Chair Michael Guyton, and members of the committee....

My name is Geoffrey Pohanka and I am the chairman of the Pohanka Automotive Group. Our company was founded in 1919 and includes thirteen automobile dealerships and 850 team members within the State of Maryland. I am very concerned, as are many Maryland residents and businesses, with the ever rising price of electricity within our State.

I urge you to support House Bill 1561, The Affordable Energy Act. In-State energy generation is in decline while energy consumption is increasing. The rule of supply and demand dictates that prices will continue to rise as long as this condition continues. Maryland relies on other states to provide forty-two percent of our electricity which is equal to the consumption of all Maryland households. Imported power costs more and often results in higher emissions. This is one reason why delivery costs are increasing faster than the cost of energy generation.

For our organization, rising energy prices have a significant impact on our economic well being and that of our customers. The warning signs are clear, PJM capacity prices have increased 600% and even this did not procure enough energy generation to meet reliability targets which have come up 6,600 megawatts short.

There are several benefits from House Bill 1561...

1. The Public Service Commission will allow utilities to generate their own electricity which would increase supply and provide greater competition in the marketplace
2. The PSC will direct utilities to develop new renewable and battery storage assets when needed for reliability and affordability
3. This bill will bring generation under direct regulatory oversight. Currently only delivery is so regulated.
4. The bill is the most efficient and practical way to increase energy availability within the State and at the lowest possible price.

Maryland's energy challenge is structural. The current system is preventing enough supply and at a reasonable cost.

For the Pohanka Automotive Group, this means greater cost predictability, improved operational stability, stronger competitiveness, and the confidence to invest, hire, and grow in Maryland without the fear of volatile energy prices. Please support House Bill 1561.

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STAFFORD, VA
Nissan

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoffrey Pohanka', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Geoffrey Pohanka

Chairman, Pohanka Automotive Group

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