

Testimony For HB1349

Honorable Delegates

Please enter a favorable report for HB1349.

I support

- Requiring the Public Service Commission to develop an implementation plan to convert formerly operational fossil fuel generating stations in the State to natural gas generating stations;
- requiring the Commission to conduct a public stakeholder process to solicit input when developing the implementation plan; and
- requiring the Commission, by January 1, 2027, to provide its implementation plan and recommendations to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly.

While it was an admirable goal to switch our energy producing methods from coal and natural gas to less polluting sources such as solar and wind, it was short-sighted to shut down the power plants using coal and natural gas before these alternative sources could produce as much electricity as the closed power plants. Doing such in a period of rapidly increasing demand for electricity just exacerbated the electric power shortage.

It is basic economics that in times of increasing demand, while supply decreases, the price of a good or service will increase, if available at all. Not only is the price to generate electricity rising, we must pay an increasing delivery cost because we must import electricity from neighboring states because we cannot produce enough meet our own needs.

This bill would provide a possible solution to our supply problem by converting the coal burning power plants to less polluting natural gas burning plants. While not as “clean” as solar or wind, it would help meet our power needs in the short term.

So please enter a favorable report for HB1349.

Alan Lang
45 Marys Mount Road
Harwood, Maryland 20776
Legislative District 30B
410-336-9745
Alanlang1@verizon.net

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