



Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee
FROM: MEA
SUBJECT: HB 647 - Power Plant Research Program - Study on Nuclear Energy
DATE: February 17, 2026

MEA Position: LETTER OF INFORMATION

The Maryland Energy Administration offers the following information regarding House Bill 647, which requires the Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) to study and make recommendations on nuclear energy and its role in Maryland's energy portfolio.

Maryland previously examined the role of nuclear energy in the State's energy mix through a comprehensive study conducted in 2019¹. That analysis evaluated existing nuclear generation, emerging technologies, and potential policy considerations associated with new nuclear deployment.

HB 647 directs PPRP to evaluate the current state of nuclear energy in Maryland, assess potential new deployment initiatives, examine barriers and timelines, identify possible State-owned siting opportunities, and assess the practicality of including nuclear energy within the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS). MEA recognizes that these questions intersect with the broader statewide energy planning efforts and long-term reliability considerations.

MEA also notes that the Governor's recent Executive Order, [Building an Affordable and Reliable Energy Future](#), specifically directs the newly established Maryland Energy Advisory Council to identify barriers to the deployment of generation facilities and affordability, and provide recommendations relating to nuclear power. The Executive Order also includes directives related to evaluating zero-emission generation resources and improving site readiness for advanced energy technologies.

While Maryland benefits from existing nuclear generation as a significant source of carbon-free electricity, deployment of new nuclear facilities presents complex considerations, including financing, workforce development, transmission infrastructure, waste management, and regulatory review timelines. Any evaluation of nuclear energy's potential role in Maryland's clean energy strategy should carefully examine these factors alongside cost, reliability, and ratepayer impacts.

¹ Maryland Department of Natural Resources. *Nuclear Power in Maryland: Status and Prospects*, 2020, https://dnr.maryland.gov/pprp/Documents/NuclearPowerinMaryland_Status-and-Prospects.pdf

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy manager, at megan.outten@maryland.gov or 443.842.1780.