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February 17, 2026

**SUPPORT: HB 647 - Power Plant Research Program - Study on Nuclear
Energy**

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports HB 647 - Power Plant Research Program - Study on Nuclear Energy and we thank Delegate Ivey for his leadership on this issue. We have spoken with Delegate Ivey about the amendments outlined in this testimony and are supportive of the bill with their inclusion.

Projected electricity demand is one factor in Marylanders' rising energy bills. To address this, we have the opportunity to generate more in-state zero emissions energy. Solar + storage is the least-cost and fastest-to-deploy option, but we need to consider all non-carbon-emitting sources of energy. This study on nuclear energy is a reasonable step in assessing the potential for this energy source to meet projected demand, as well as assessing the adverse impacts.

We do think it is important to explicitly include the potential adverse environmental, human health, and safety impacts of nuclear energy and nuclear waste in the study. We propose the following amendments to HB 647 for your consideration:

I. Change "renewable" to "non-carbon-emitting" throughout the bill, e.g. FOR the purpose of requiring the Power Plant Research Program to study and make recommendations on nuclear energy and its role as a **renewable non-carbon-emitting** energy resource; and generally relating to a study on nuclear energy.

II. Add that the study will:

1. identify the impacts associated with nuclear energy generation and use in Maryland, including any adverse health or environmental impacts, and
2. identify the appropriate locations for nuclear waste disposal or storage and any associated impacts with nuclear waste storage

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on HB 647 with these additions to the bill language.