



# EASTON UTILITIES

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March 10, 2026

**To:** House Environment & Transportation Committee

**From:** Easton Utilities Commission

**Bill:** HB 1561 – Electricity Generation and Storage – Investor-Owned Electric Companies and Front-of-the-Meter Storage (Affordable Energy Act)

**Position:** Letter of Information

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Easton Utilities Commission (EUC) is a small municipally-owned utility and telecommunications company operating the electric, natural gas, water, wastewater, cable TV, and internet services for the Town of Easton and portions of the surrounding area.

Easton Utilities supports a diverse mixture of fuels/sources to address Maryland's current and future base-load energy demands, while being mindful of long-term reliability, resiliency, and sustainability. To ensure high reliability, we utilize a diverse portfolio of energy sources, including solar, ultra-low-sulfur diesel, and clean, affordable natural gas. This enhances energy security and helps insulate our customers from energy disruptions and price volatility.

We are a vertically-integrated electric company, capable of generating enough electricity to serve our customers via 17 generation units with a capacity of 66 MW. These units originally supplied all of Easton's power prior to our joining PJM in the mid-1970s. Since then, they have been used to participate in the PJM market and to hedge energy costs for our customers.

During the recent historic cold spell at the end of January, our units were called upon by PJM to run nearly non-stop for two weeks, providing support to the grid and to our customers. The resulting revenue – which goes directly against the electric supply costs to our customers – translated to an average reduction of \$50 on our residential customers' bills in February.

In an emergency, we can island and operate as a microgrid, providing resilience for the Eastern Shore and serving as a staging area during major grid disturbances or natural disasters - another benefit to owning our own generation.

Though modernized and upgraded over the years, our fleet of generators are aging (our oldest was put into service in 1954) and maintaining our microgrid capability around the clock is imperative, which is why we continue to pursue increased generation.

Increasing in-State generation with an all-of-the-above approach could also alleviate some of the very real concerns about resource capacity currently facing the State in the near and long term.

*Please contact Kurt Fuchs with any questions at [kfuchs@eucmail.com](mailto:kfuchs@eucmail.com) or 443-786-0855.*