

HB1239_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
03/03/2026
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TESTIMONY ON HB#1239 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Safety - Critical Infrastructure Protection

TO: Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and members of the Government, Labor and Elections Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1239, **Public Safety - Critical Infrastructure Protection**

The National Governors Association, whose vice chair is Governor Moore of Maryland, has discussed the *States' Role in Addressing Foreign Threats in U.S. Critical Energy Infrastructure Sectors*¹

The safety and economic security of the United States are dependent on the integrity of the nation's critical energy infrastructure systems, including power, natural gas, and petroleum. Failure of critical assets in any of these systems could have catastrophic impacts on communities, businesses and national defense. Energy is also the backbone of all other critical infrastructure systems, meaning that an energy supply failure could have cascading effects on transportation, water, telecommunications, finance, healthcare and other sectors.

To deter, detect, and defend these entities requires the cooperation of state government along with federal interagency partners and energy sector entities. Governors are uniquely positioned to convene these stakeholders and implement policies that address these threats.

This bill makes Maryland take affirmative steps to implement critical infrastructure in the state.

This bill will establish the Critical Infrastructure Protection Branch in the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center; requiring the Department of Emergency Management, in consultation with the Center, to take certain action in response to an attack on the State's critical infrastructure; and requiring the Department of Information Technology to allow the owner or operator of critical infrastructure to become a member of the Maryland Information Sharing and Analysis Center and provide cybersecurity reporting standards to the owner or operator.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1239.

¹ <https://www.nga.org/publications/states-role-in-addressing-foreign-threats-in-u-s-critical-energy-infrastructure-sectors/#:~:text=Reliable%20energy%20supply%20for%20public,expedited%20emergency%20support%20and%20restitution.>