

MIKE MCKAY
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Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committees
Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review
Children, Youth, and Families
Program Open Space and Agricultural
Land Preservation

Senate Bill 482 – Criminal Law - Interference with Critical Infrastructure or a Public Safety Answering Point

February 17, 2026

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 482 takes a necessary and forward-looking step to protect Maryland’s critical infrastructure and emergency response systems from intentional cyber interference. As cyberattacks grow more sophisticated and increasingly target essential systems—such as utilities, health care facilities, schools, and public safety answering points, Maryland law must clearly prohibit conduct that disrupts or denies access to these vital services. This bill closes gaps in existing statute by explicitly addressing acts intended to impair critical infrastructure or emergency communications, ensuring that bad actors who deliberately endanger public safety can be held appropriately accountable.

Importantly, SB 482 balances strong enforcement with reasonable safeguards by preserving exemptions for legitimate research, testing, and educational activities. The bill focuses squarely on intentional, unauthorized conduct that threatens public safety, economic security, and essential government functions, while avoiding overreach into lawful cybersecurity work. By strengthening penalties for interference with critical infrastructure and 911 systems, this legislation reinforces Maryland’s commitment to protecting residents, first responders, and essential services from disruptions that could have catastrophic consequences.

I thank you for your time and I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties