

February 19, 2025

The Honorable C. T. Wilson
House Economic Matters Committee
230 Taylor House Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB1217 – Natural Gas Generating Facilities – Authorization

Dear Chairman Wilson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce, I write to express our strong support for **HB1217 – Natural Gas Generating Facilities – Authorization**, which authorizes the construction, permitting, and operation of natural gas generating facilities in Maryland until the state meets fifty percent of its energy needs from renewable sources.

Maryland currently imports 40% of its energy, leading to increased costs for businesses and households. As energy demands rise, it is imperative to ensure a reliable, cost-effective energy supply for Maryland's economy. This bill presents a balanced approach by addressing the immediate need for affordable, in-state energy production while maintaining a clear transition toward renewable energy.

We commend legislative leaders for recognizing this challenge and taking proactive steps to secure Maryland's energy future. By allowing natural gas generation as a bridge while expanding renewable infrastructure, this bill provides a practical and responsible solution. Additionally, the requirement for the Maryland Energy Administration to collaborate on reducing natural gas production as renewable capacity grows ensures a thoughtful and forward-looking strategy.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **favorable vote** on **HB1217**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Juli McCoy
President & CEO

juli@alleganycountychamber.com

cc: Allegany County Delegation