



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Sent electronically

The Honorable Donald J. Trump

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Christopher Wright

Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear President Trump and Secretary Wright,

On behalf of the Maryland Freedom Caucus, we commend your bold leadership in securing America's energy future. We write to request urgent federal intervention to avert an imminent energy reliability crisis in Maryland, driven by accelerating power plant retirements and inadequate replacement capacity.

Maryland faces a critical threat to its energy security. The state currently imports approximately 40% of its electricity, a figure projected to rise to 70–80% by 2028 following the planned deactivation of the Brandon Shores and Wagner generating stations. These facilities account for nearly 80% of in-area capacity within Baltimore Gas and Electric's zone of PJM Interconnection. Their closure, combined with the absence of comparable baseload resources, will leave Maryland heavily reliant on long-distance power imports until costly transmission upgrades are completed in late 2028.

The situation demands immediate action. PJM's recent approval of an \$870 million transmission buildout will not be operational until Q4 2028, creating a multi-year window of heightened risk for rolling blackouts and brownouts. The planned

closure of Brandon Shores, driven by a 2020 legal settlement between Talen Energy and the Sierra Club, exacerbates this risk. Despite a temporary Reliability Must Run (RMR) designation allowing limited operation through May 2029, this measure only partially mitigates emergency grid stability concerns and imposes significant ratepayer costs without addressing the underlying capacity shortfall.

Private agreements with advocacy groups should not jeopardize Maryland's grid reliability or burden ratepayers with soaring costs. The federal government has a critical role in ensuring stable, affordable energy for Marylanders and preventing a dangerous precedent for politically driven plant shutdowns nationwide.

We respectfully urge the U.S. Department of Energy to take the following immediate actions under its emergency authorities:

- **Issue a Section 202(c) Emergency Order** requiring Brandon Shores and Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Station to operate at full dispatchable capacity during the 2025 peak season and beyond. Calvert Cliffs provides stable, zero-emission baseload energy, while Brandon Shores, upgraded with an \$875 million scrubber system in 2019, remains one of the nation's cleanest coal plants.
- **Expedite Infrastructure Upgrades** using emergency permitting powers under the April 8 Executive Order to fast-track the conversion of Warrior Run or another Maryland coal facility to natural gas, ensuring a long-term, lower-emission baseload solution.
- **Conduct an Urgent Review** of all recently retired or scheduled-to-retire baseload units in Maryland to evaluate potential reactivation, extension, or fuel conversion under Section 202(c) to bolster grid reliability.

These actions are in the public interest for the following reasons:

- **Imminent Blackout Risk:** PJM has warned that the retirement of Brandon Shores and Wagner without replacement capacity creates a "dangerous" risk of cascading outages across multiple states.
- **Transmission Delays:** New transmission infrastructure will not be operational until Q4 2028, leaving Maryland vulnerable to grid instability for three peak seasons.
- **Ratepayer Burden:** Maryland ratepayers face over \$700 million in emergency surcharges to maintain partial operation of Brandon Shores under RMR, with costs likely to escalate without decisive federal action.

- **Energy Sovereignty:** Maryland's growing dependence on imported power and politically negotiated plant closures undermines national energy security and sets a troubling precedent.

The Maryland Freedom Caucus stands ready to support the Department of Energy through legislative, administrative, and public efforts to ensure reliable, affordable energy for our constituents. We respectfully request a response by July 15, 2025, outlining the Department's planned actions and we invite direct collaboration with your staff to avert this crisis.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to American energy independence. Marylanders deserve stable power, not blackout warnings or billion-dollar bandages.

Sincerely,


Delegate Matt Morgan


Delegate Lauren Arikan


Delegate Robin Grammer


Delegate Ryan Nawrocki


Delegate Kathy Szeliga


Delegate Mark Fisher


Delegate Brian Chisholm

CC: Congressman Andy Harris, MD (MD CD1)