



February 20, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Re: HB970 - Recognizing Nuclear Energy as Clean

Dear Chair Korman;

The Nuclear Innovation Alliance (NIA) is writing in support of HB970, which will change the current Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard to a Clean Energy Portfolio Standard and add nuclear energy as a Tier 1 renewable source. This bill recognizes nuclear energy as clean energy, will contribute to meeting Maryland's ambitious climate goals, and will provide important economic benefits to the state.

NIA is a non-profit, non-partisan 'think-and-do' tank whose mission is to create the conditions for success for new nuclear energy as an energy security and climate solution. NIA focuses on Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) modernization, federal and state policies to support new reactor commercialization, and private investment and workforce development in new nuclear energy. To achieve its mission, NIA performs technical analysis and policy development, educates policymakers, and engages with key stakeholders.

In 2024, Governor Wes Moore pledged to reach 100% clean generation in Maryland by 2035. He signed an executive order to advance the State's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, tasking the Maryland Energy Administration with establishing a framework for a clean energy standard to achieve this ambitious goal. According to the Nuclear Energy Institute, Maryland's one nuclear power plant generates 40% of the state's electricity. In Maryland, nuclear energy avoids an estimated 7.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually by displacing fossil fuel generation. In this sense, nuclear energy is the backbone of Maryland's carbon-free energy strategy.

HB970 would provide existing and new nuclear power plants with the same incentives that other sources of clean energy receive. For these reasons, NIA urges the Committee for a report of favorable with amendments for HB970.

If you have any questions, please contact me at zkoshgarian@nuclearinnovationalliance.org

Sincerely,
Zach Koshgarian
Analyst, NIA