

Nuclear Matters Testimony
Nuclear Energy Development Task Force
SB 805
Feb. 28, 2024

Maryland is on the cusp of creating a reliable energy grid to help achieve the state's ambitious goals to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2031 and set the state up to achieve carbon net neutrality by 2045. The expanded inclusion of nuclear energy, coupled with other clean energy sources, will play a pivotal part in accelerating the state's clean energy progress while balancing affordability and reliability.

Nuclear Matters, a diverse, nationwide community of advocates (1,483 strong in Maryland), applauds Maryland's continued efforts to further integrate nuclear-powered solutions in their energy grid with its consideration to create a Nuclear Energy Development Task Force through HB 820 and SB 805. We urge the Maryland State Legislature and Governor Moore to move forward with creating this future-focused task force.

Nuclear energy is a vital part of America's clean energy portfolio – and Maryland is no exception. The Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant generates nearly 39% of all of Maryland's electricity and an astounding 78% of the state's clean, carbon-free electricity. The facility also currently provides over 800 in-state jobs and generates \$22.8 million in state and local taxes which bolster Maryland's economy. With further action from the state, nuclear energy can expand its role as the most reliable, clean energy solution to propel Maryland forward economically while increasing the state's energy independence.

With big aspirations comes the need for bold innovation and solution-oriented thinking. Maryland can properly identify and address the investments necessary to infuse more nuclear energy into the state's energy grid by creating a nuclear energy-focused task force. Given Maryland's geography, vast coastline and the ever-growing threat of severe weather, increasing the state's supply of nuclear energy will prove vital to ensuring its residents have long-term access to clean and reliable energy that enables the state to meet its own climate initiatives.

Nuclear Matters encourages Maryland policymakers to seriously consider the benefits of creating a nuclear task force and the positive impact its reporting could have on accelerating the state toward long-term economic growth and energy independence.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on Maryland's clean energy future and the vital role the expansion of nuclear energy could have for the state and nation.