



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 11, 2025

Mr. Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585
Letter sent electronically

RE: Urgent Federal Action Needed to Address Maryland's Energy Crisis

Dear Secretary Wright,

We would like to extend our sincere congratulations on your recent appointment. We appreciate your leadership in advancing President Trump's national energy initiatives, particularly efforts to ensure energy security and affordability for all Americans. We write to bring your immediate attention to the worsening energy crisis in Maryland and to request urgent federal intervention before the situation escalates further.

Maryland is on the brink of a severe energy reliability and affordability crisis. The planned closures of the Brandon Shores (coal) and Wagner (oil) power plants—two of the state's last remaining baseload energy sources—will leave Maryland dangerously dependent on out-of-state power. These closures, combined with the forced shutdowns of six other coal plants, mean that Maryland will soon be importing nearly 80% of its electricity, placing the state and the broader PJM grid at significant risk of rolling brownouts, skyrocketing rates, and potential blackouts.

The consequences of these closures cannot be overstated. Maryland residents are already struggling under high energy costs, and further reductions in in-state generation will push electricity prices even higher. Families, seniors, and businesses will face impossible financial choices—between heating their homes, affording medication, powering their life-saving medical devices, or even putting food on the table. These are unacceptable burdens that demand immediate federal action.

While Talen Energy Group has agreed to temporarily keep Brandon Shores and Wagner operating under PJM’s directives, they are exploiting this crisis to impose excessive “Reliability Must Run” (RMR) fees on ratepayers. This profit-driven approach, which prioritizes corporate gains over public energy security, is unsustainable. We urge the Department of Energy to mandate the full operation of these plants or facilitate their sale to a company willing to maintain their function—ensuring Marylanders have access to stable, affordable electricity.

Moreover, the state’s radical push toward premature plant closures, driven by unrealistic Net Zero mandates and Green New Deal policies, has prioritized ideology over energy security. The Maryland Public Service Commission, Governor Wes Moore, and the state legislature have failed to consider the immediate impact on grid reliability and household costs. The federal government must step in before this crisis becomes irreversible. Beyond Brandon Shores and Wagner, Maryland has also forced the closure of the Morgantown and Warrior Run coal power plants. Given the escalating energy crisis, we urge the Department of Energy to investigate the feasibility of reopening these plants to restore energy reliability and protect ratepayers from unsustainable costs.

This situation demands immediate federal action. We implore you to intervene to protect Maryland residents from avoidable blackouts, energy poverty, and economic harm. We stand ready to assist in any way necessary to ensure Maryland’s energy future remains secure, reliable, and affordable.

Thank you for your time and urgent attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,


Delegate Matt Morgan


Delegate Lauren Arian


Delegate Robin Grammer


Delegate Ryan Nawrocki


Delegate Kathy Szeliga


Delegate Mark Fisher


Delegate Brian Chisholm

CC: Congressman Andy Harris, MD (Maryland CD1)

