

**February 18, 2026**

Dear Governor Moore and Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

On behalf of Maryland's business community, including chambers of commerce and diverse small- and minority-owned businesses statewide, we write to express concern about Maryland's growing power supply challenges and the implications for economic stability and growth.

Reliable and affordable energy is foundational to business operations. Large and small employers in Maryland depend on predictable energy costs to make investment, hiring, and expansion decisions. As energy prices rise and reliability risks increase, businesses across sectors are facing higher operating costs, reduced certainty, and greater difficulty in planning for the future.

Recent regional market outcomes indicate that Maryland faces a widening gap between energy demand and available in-state power supply. Despite record-high prices, the regional market has failed to secure sufficient capacity to meet future reliability needs. Maryland's increasing reliance on out-of-state energy exposes businesses to volatile prices beyond the state's control and raises serious concerns about reliability.

These challenges are not abstract. Higher energy costs directly affect small businesses operating on thin margins, manufacturers and logistics firms with energy-intensive operations, and growing employers considering where to locate or expand. Reliability risks - particularly during extreme, weather-threatened downtime, lost revenue, supply chain disruptions, and reduced competitiveness for Maryland's economy.

We respectfully urge the Administration and Maryland General Assembly to prioritize policies that increase our energy supply, improve price stability, and support long-term economic competitiveness. Maryland's businesses stand ready to engage constructively on solutions that protect customers, support employers, and ensure Maryland remains an attractive place to do business.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Alexander K. Austin*

Alexander Austin  
President & CEO  
Prince George's Chamber of Commerce

*Stephanie M. Helsing*

Stephanie Helsing  
President & CEO  
Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce



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President and CEO  
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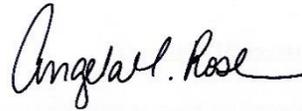
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