



Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Position

**SB 772
OPPOSE
Finance
Committee
03/17/09**

SB 772

Electric Generating Facility Decommissioning and Restoration - Surcharge or Bond or Other Security - Fund

Brief Summary of Bill:

SB 772 requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to establish a surcharge on electric generating facilities to decommission plants.

Maryland Chamber's Position:

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce opposes this bill. The bill actually creates a new tax on generating companies that will ultimately be passed on to electric consumers. It is an unwarranted intrusion on PSC authority, and it will discourage generation, which is counterproductive in this electric reliability constrained era. The discouragement includes clean generating sources, such as wind and solar, along with traditional sources, which are needed to meet our very progressive renewable requirement.

Additionally, the bill is unnecessary, because there is currently no such requirement, and regulatory programs are already in place to make certain any sites decommissioned are adequately left in proper order.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests that the Committee give SB 772 an unfavorable report.

If questions please contact Allyson Black, ablack@mdchamber.org