TO: The Honorable Dereck Davis, Chair  
Members, House Economic Matters Committee  
The Honorable Dana Stein

FROM: Gene Ransom

DATE: March 12, 2015

– Pollution and Combustion Control Technologies

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), which represents more than 8,000 
Maryland physicians and their patients, supports House Bill 1042.

House Bill 1042 provides for the required installation of modern pollution controls 
on Maryland’s coal-fired power plants as required under the Clean Air Act to help 
Maryland’s air quality meet health-based standards established by the Environmental 
Protection Agency. Maryland’s air quality continues to be some of the worst in the 
Mid-Atlantic. Continued exposure to poor air quality has been demonstrated to lead to 
an increase in respiratory symptoms, emergency department visits and hospital 
admissions for respiratory illnesses especially in asthmatics, children and the elderly. 
In addition, poor air quality presents a serious environmental justice concern due to 
broad racial and socioeconomic disparities in areas with some of the worst pollution.

Maryland’s coal-fired power plants are some of the largest emitters of air pollutants. 
However, Maryland trails many other Eastern states in the installation of state-of-the-
art pollution controls on the plants to control these emissions, thus exacerbating our air 
quality problem. House Bill 1042 reflects a reasonable plan for the installation of 
necessary pollution control technology that will bring Maryland’s plants into 
conformity with the Clean Air and EPA requirements. It reflects a deliberative process 
of consideration that previously was reflected in proposed regulations that were 
subsequently withdrawn. Passage of House Bill 1042 will ensure that these protections 
are enacted without further delay thus advancing the State’s efforts to improve air 
quality and reduce the related negative health impacts. MedChi urges a favorable 
report.

For more information call: 
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