

The Energy Industry Revitalization Working Group

Member Biographies (As of 8/5/2024)

Name: The Honorable Malcolm Augustine

Organization: Maryland State Senate

Title: Maryland State Senator, Democrat, District 47, Prince George's County

Seat: One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate

Personal Background: Senator Malcolm Augustine has been a member of the Maryland State Senate since January of 2019. He is a member of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee; the Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families; the Legislative Policy Committee; and the Executive Nominations Committee. Senator Augustine is also a member of the Workgroup on Low-Income Utility Assistance; the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission; the Maryland Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence Advisory Group; the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access; in addition to his membership to the Energy Industry Revitalization Working Group.

Organization Background: The Maryland State Senate is the upper house of the General Assembly, the state legislature of the U.S. state of Maryland. There are 47 senators, one from each of Maryland's legislative districts. The Senate Chamber is in the Maryland State House on State Circle in Annapolis.

Name: Delegate Lily Qi

Organization: Maryland House of Delegates

Title: Maryland State Delegate, Democrat, District 15, Montgomery County

Seat: One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House

Personal Background: Delegate Lily Qi has been a member of the House of Delegates since January of 2019. She is a member of the Economic Matters Committee; the Study Group on Economic Stability; Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus; The Maryland Legislative Transit Caucus; and the Women Legislators of Maryland. In addition, Delegate Qi is the House Chair on the Joint Committee on Federal Relations; the Second Vice Chair for the Maryland Legislative Asian-American and Pacific-Islander Caucus;

Organization Background: The Maryland House of Delegates is the lower house of the state legislature of the state of Maryland. There are 141 delegates elected from each of the 27 legislative districts in Maryland. The House of Delegates Chamber is in the Maryland State House on State Circle in Annapolis.

Name: Andrew Place

Organization: Maryland Department of the Environment

Title: Policy Director of Clean Air Task Force

Seat: The Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary, or the Secretary's designee

Personal Background: Prior to his time at MDE, Andrew was a commissioner of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission from 2015 to 2019. Before that, he served as the corporate director for energy and environmental policy at the EQT Corporation, and served in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.



Organization Background: The mission of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is to protect and restore the environment for the health and well-being of all Marylanders. The vision of the agency is to support healthy, vibrant and sustainable communities and ecosystems in Maryland.

Name: Heather Gramm

Organization: Maryland Department of Commerce

Title: Assistant Secretary

Seat: The Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee

Personal Background: Heather Gramm has been the Assistant Secretary for the Maryland Department of Commerce since January of 2022. Her role as assistant secretary is to create job opportunities and retention for the Maryland workforce. She also oversees numerous divisions within the agency, including the Office of Finance Programs: Strategic Industries of Entrepreneurship; International Investment and Trade; and Military and Federal Affairs. Before joining the Department of Commerce, Heather Gramm served as the Deputy Director for the Frederick County Office of Economic Development.

Organization Background: The Maryland Department of Commerce stimulates the Maryland job market by encouraging the expansion of employment opportunities.

Name: Stephanie Kane

Organization: Old Dominion Electric Cooperative

Title: Director of External Affairs and Government Relations

Seat: One representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, selected by the President and CEO of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce.

Personal Background: Stephanie Kane is the Director of External Affairs and Government Relations at Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC). Stephanie advocates on behalf of the 1.5 million people serviced by ODEC, at the legislative and executive levels for state and federal government. She serves to provide economic prosperity to both rural and suburban communities who obtain their energy through electric cooperatives. Her professional experience includes expertise in the areas of public relations, advertising, grassroots advocacy, coalition development, and public policy campaigns in a wide range of sectors extending from transportation and land use, to telehealth and economic development. Stephanie is also an instructor at the University of Richmond's School of Professional and Continuing Studies, which focuses on education in grassroots organization, strategic communication, and media classes for their Grassroots Lobbying and Advocacy Professional Certification.

Organization Background: Old Dominion Electric Cooperative is a consumer-owned membership corporation dedicated to being reliable energy providers, and environmental stewards. ODEC is the power supplier for Choptank Electric Cooperative and 10 other not-for-profit distribution cooperatives in Maryland, Virginia and Delaware. ODEC purchases all 70 megawatts of wind energy output from the Criterion Wind Project in Garrett County. Wildcat Point Generation Facility is owned and operated by ODEC in Cecil County.

Name: Jennifer Smith-Funn

Organization: Maryland Small Business Development Center

Title: Regional Director – Baltimore City/Baltimore County

Seat: One representative of the Maryland Small Business Development Center

Personal Background: Jennifer Smith-Funn is a highly accomplished business professional who has devoted her career to helping entrepreneurs succeed. As the Regional Director for Baltimore City and Baltimore County for the Maryland Small Business Development Center, she has been instrumental in expanding services to the region's small business community. Her commitment to

environmental sustainability and community development is evident in her role as a member of Governor Wes Moore's Chesapeake Conservation Corp Advisory Board. In addition, she is a former restaurant and catering service owner and has successfully managed a transit-oriented development program designed to revitalize the areas surrounding Prince George's County Green line Metro stations. Ms. Funn's dedication to entrepreneurship and small business has earned her a reputation as a thought leader and change agent in the industry, and her motto, "entrepreneurship is not a destination, it's a journey" reflects her belief that with the right support, anyone can achieve their dreams.

Organization Background: The Maryland Small Business Development Center utilizes business consulting, training, and funding to support entrepreneurs and small businesses across the state to facilitate their growth and development.

Name: Nancy Sopko

Organization: U.S. Wind

Title: Senior Director, External Affairs

Seat: Two representatives selected by the Public Service Commission

Personal Background: As the Senior Director of External Affairs, Nancy Sopko leads the company's government and public affairs initiatives. Nancy has more than a decade of experience in offshore wind policy, advocacy, and public engagement. Prior to joining U.S. Wind, Nancy worked with the University of Delaware as the executive director on a Special Initiative on Offshore Wind, and worked as the director of offshore wind policy at the American Wind Energy Association.

Organization Background: US Wind is Maryland's leader in offshore wind generation and development. They are dedicated to providing renewable energy for the state, and facilitate a transition away from fossil fuel energy consumption.

Name: Charles Washington

Organization: Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE)

Title: Director, Government and External Affairs

Seat: Two representatives selected by the Public Service Commission

Personal Background: Charles Washington is the Director of Government and External Affairs at BGE.

Organization Background: BGE is Maryland's largest natural gas and electric utility, and is the nation's leading competitive energy supplier.

Name: Sarah E. Battisti

Organization: NRG Energy

Title: Director of Government Affairs

Seat: Two representatives selected by the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration

Personal Background: Sarah Battisti is the Director of Governmental Affairs at NRG Energy.

Organization Background: NRG Energy strives to create cleaner and more integrated energy solutions for homes and businesses.