



Maryland Forestry Foundation
124 South Street #3
Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone : 301-717-1579
Website : www.marylandforestryfoundation.org

Mr. Chairman and member of the Committee :

GARY G. ALLEN
President

Vice President for
Development

SANDRA SPARKS
Vice President for
Communications

DAWN BALINSKI
Treasurer

Secretary

Directors
JIM BARDSLEY
MEGAN CARR
GLENN FERENSCHAK
ANNE HAIRSTON-STRANG
MIKE HUNNINGHAKE
WAYNE LUCAS
JOLI A. MCCATHRAN
BILL REES

My Name is Gary Allen, and I'm the President of the Maryland Forestry Foundation. I am speaking today in strong opposition to HB 1224 for the exemption of altering the definition of "linear project."

to exclude a project for a new transmission line or new distribution line constructed on or after a certain date from the Forest Conservation act (FCA) by electric companies.

This committee supported, and the State has adopted a **no net loss of forest** resource's goal. Such action requires we look askance at the addition of further exemption to the recently revised FCA.

We recognize the states' power needs are growing, and there are a huge number of significant transmission corridors under consideration that impact existing forest cover. While a balance among land use goals must be found, outright exemption from FCA is not the answer. It is important to point out this bill is also inconsistent with the states' adopted climate and 5 million tree goals.

We urge an unfavorable report on HB1224.

Thank you,

Gary G. Allen
President, Maryland Forestry Foundation
Info@marylandforestryfoundation.org