

Jessica Malatt

7709 Hobbs Court

Mount Airy, MD 21771

jessicamalatt@gmail.com

240-529-2348

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Testimony in Support of Senate Bills 483, 853, 947, 950, 951, 952, 953, 955 and House Bills 631, 1079, 1337, 1362, 1396

To:

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Chair: Senator Brian J. Feldman – brian.feldman@senate.state.md.us

Vice Chair: Senator Cheryl C. Kagan – cheryl.kagan@senate.state.md.us

House Economic Matters Committee

Chair: Delegate C.T. Wilson – ct.wilson@house.state.md.us

Vice Chair: Delegate Brian M. Crosby – brian.crosby@house.state.md.us

From: Jessica Malatt

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee & the House Economic Matters Committee,

My name is Jessica Malatt, and I am a resident of Mount Airy, Maryland. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bills 483, 853, 947, 950, 951, 952, 953, 955 and House Bills 631, 1079, 1337, 1362, 1396, which are essential in protecting homeowners, families, and our environment from unnecessary and harmful infrastructure projects like the Maryland Public Service Commission's (PSC) MPRP transmission line proposal.

As a homeowner in a rural community directly impacted by this project, my greatest concern is the well-being of my family. My husband and I chose to build our home in this peaceful, natural environment to raise our children away from urban congestion, noise, and industrial encroachment. The proposed transmission lines would disrupt this way of life, forcing us to live beneath towering electrical structures and exposing our children to potential health risks from

electromagnetic fields. This is not what we envisioned when we made a lifelong investment in this property.

Beyond the direct impact on my home, the MPRP transmission project threatens the surrounding forested land, including a neighboring property that shares the same woodland area. This forest serves as a natural buffer, providing privacy, clean air, and an essential habitat for wildlife. If this project proceeds unchecked, it will irreversibly damage the environment, destroy mature trees, and alter the rural character of our community.

The bills I support ensure that homeowners like myself are not forced to accept industrial-scale projects in our backyards without thorough evaluation of alternative solutions.

- Senate Bill 483 requires the Public Service Commission to consider less invasive options before approving new transmission lines, protecting sensitive environmental and residential areas.
- House Bill 631 reinforces property rights by preventing the state from taking land under perpetual agricultural or conservation easements.
- Senate Bill 953 proposes the creation of a task force to develop a realistic electricity plan for Maryland, ensuring that future infrastructure meets energy demands responsibly without sacrificing homeowner rights.

These measures provide necessary oversight and accountability to prevent projects like MPRP from overriding the interests of Maryland's homeowners and environment.

While some may argue that expanding the power grid is necessary for future energy demands, we must balance progress with responsible development. Placing transmission lines in residential and environmentally sensitive areas is not the only option—alternative solutions such as underground lines or existing right-of-ways should be prioritized.

These bills advocate for that balance, ensuring that Maryland's infrastructure needs do not come at the cost of:

- Families' health
- Property values
- Environmental conservation

Call to Action

I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bills 483, 853, 947, 950, 951, 952, 953, 955 and House Bills 631, 1079, 1337, 1362, 1396, and to advocate for their passage to protect Maryland's homeowners, preserve our forests, and prevent unnecessary and harmful infrastructure development.

Closing and Thank You

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at jessicamalatt@gmail.com or 240-529-2348. I appreciate your dedication to serving our community and look forward to seeing your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Jessica Malatt