

Bill Number: Senate Bill #SB578

Testimony from: James R. Wiley 2613 Harkins Rd
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Position: Support

As a property owner and participant in an Agricultural Preservation program in Harford County, MD, I support this bill to ensure that future applications to acquire new easements, particularly in preserved properties, via eminent domain for the purpose of constructing overhead transmission lines be denied without rigorous research, provided at the applicant's expense, that proves it is not feasible to use existing infrastructure and that demonstrates benefits to the community.

The application by Transource (MD Public Service Commission Case 9471) has forced property owners in northern Harford County, several with properties that are already preserved, to defend against easements over a 2+ year period. The Transource project does not stand up to investigation of necessity, benefit, and, especially, adherence to the terms of preservation agreements.