



TESTIMONY FOR HB0777
POWER PLANT RESEARCH PROGRAM – REVIEW OF APPLICATION FOR
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY - ALTERATIONS

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Brooks

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0777 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Pipelines, power plants, fossil fuel infrastructure keeps getting approved in Maryland. There seems to be nothing stopping it. Not the Fracking Ban. Not our greenhouse gas targets. Not the fact that the we are already seeing the ravages of climate change.

We need this. We need something to stop the Public Service Commission, which seems to have lost sight of the fact that the words Public and Service are in their very name, and the Board of Public Works, which also seems to have lost track of its mission. We need an independent review of the applications for large infrastructure projects with a focus on the harm that the project will create.

We would like to see more teeth – an adjudicatory body to review any decisions that the Public Service Commission makes that are in opposition to the recommendations of the independent assessment of the Department of Natural Resources, and we would like to see any language about avoiding this process for undue hardship removed. However, we agree with the thrust of this legislation and feel that it could not be more necessary.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.