



TESTIMONY FOR SB0417
POWER PLANT RESEARCH PROGRAM – REVIEW OF CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE
AND NECESSITY - ALTERATIONS

Bill Sponsor: Senator Pinsky

Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0417 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

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 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.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.