

March 5, 2021

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 754

Public Service Commission - Damaged, Obsolete, or Excessive Lines - Fines

To: Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and the members of the Finance Committee

From: Daniel Richman

My name is Dan Richman. I am a resident of Baltimore, Maryland, legislative District 46. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 754, the authorization for the Public Service Commission to demand that private companies cleanup nuisance utility wires and to fine them for noncompliance.

The alley behind my house north of Patterson Park and the other alleys around me are like jungles with vines of black wires hanging loose between utility poles or poles and houses. Some come down to head and ground levels and many are close to peoples' back fences, clotheslines, and other backyard structures. I'm concerned that these messes can start fires or make it easier for fires to spread fast between poles and homes or from home to home. I think often about a fire a block over a couple years ago that did start around a utility pole and fence and spread rapidly through the entire house and its neighbors.

I'm also bothered that BGE, Comcast, and other companies neglect to clean up after themselves, treating our city like a dumping ground, and the public can't hold them accountable. Empowering the Public Service Commission to be able to deal with this problem would help keep our surroundings safe and pleasant.

I respectfully urge a favorable report for SB 754.