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112 West Street Annapolis, MD 21401

OPPOSE - Senate Bill 11: Maryland Online Consumer Protection and Child Safety Act

Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Delmarva Power & Light Company (Delmarva Power) oppose **Senate Bill 11: Maryland Online Consumer Protection and Child Safety Act.** Senate Bill 11 is a comprehensive bill that includes various requirements for businesses that collect consumer information and how that information can be disclosed or be prohibited from being disclosed at a consumer's request. Consumer information applicable to provisions within this bill includes account information, social security numbers, driver license numbers and forms of tracking data, which could include electricity consumption data and other data that could impact the security of Maryland's transmission and distribution grid collected by Pepco and Delmarva Power.

Pepco and Delmarva Power understand the concerns surrounding data privacy breaches, however Maryland has historically exempted utilities from disclosing to its customers critical electric infrastructure information in order to protect the security and integrity of the electric grid. The process of how information that impacts critical electric infrastructure information is disseminated and to whom continues to evolve through an existing Cyber-Security Reporting Work Group regulatory process at the Public Service Commission. Any policy impacting critical electric infrastructure information must be developed in a way that does not add unnecessary security risks to the electric system while protecting the electric utility's ability to service the needs of its customers.

We believe consumer privacy is an important issue. However, State-by-State regulation of consumer privacy will create an unworkable patchwork that will lead to consumer confusion. That is why we strongly support ongoing efforts to develop a uniform national approach to consumer privacy. The stakes involved in consumer privacy legislation are high and taking the wrong approach could have serious consequences for consumers, innovation, and competition.

Ensuring the energy safety of Maryland's residents must be paramount when considering legislation of this nature. We look forward to working with the sponsors and stakeholders to ensure the security of Maryland's energy infrastructure remains resilient against cyber-attacks.

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