

**Committee: Senate Finance Committee**

**Legislation: SB 0525/HB 0088 Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards Establishing the Distribution System Planning Workgroup to study issues related to energy distribution planning and implementation; requiring the Public Service Commission to adopt regulations on or before January 1, 2024, related to energy distribution planning and implementation; requiring the Commission and the Maryland Energy Administration to coordinate efforts with utilities to apply for certain federal funds; and establishing labor standards for contractors and subcontractors participating in certain projects.**

**Organization: Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: February 15, 2022**

Dear Committee Chair and Committee Members,

A favorable vote for SB 0525 known as the Grid Reliability and Inclusive Distribution Act is essential to address the huge demand for electricity from our fragile GRID that will be forthcoming as the state of Maryland and the world tries to decarbonize and reduce greenhouse gases to 1.5 degrees centigrade to stabilize the earth's climate. This legislation will help Maryland reach its statewide goals of 40% emissions reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2045. The Environmental Justice Ministry of the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, as a people of faith, holds in its Second Principle that the inherent worth and dignity of every person requires a safe and clean environment for all with equal access to a resilient energy system.

The Public Service Commission's Distribution System Planning process will be enhanced in this GRID Act by:

- Requiring the planning process to support state goals of decarbonization, greenhouse gas reductions, renewable energy, equity, family-sustaining employment, energy Resiliency and reliability, and cost effectiveness.
  - Require the PSC to form and staff a Distribution System Planning workgroup with energy stakeholders including residential customers, low-income communities, environmental advocacy groups, labor unions, and industry experts in electric vehicles, distributed energy resources and distribution planning.
  - Require an annual report from the workgroup about the Distribution Planning Process
- and adopt appropriate regulations for implementation.
- Require all Distribution GRID projects to support family sustaining jobs.

Please vote favorable for this critical legislation to ensure Marylanders have an Energy GRID for a sustainable future.

Nanci Wilkinson

Environmental Justice Ministry Team

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

