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Legislative District 20
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Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Public Utilities

Chair, Unemployment Insurance



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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HB 1186- PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES- ANNUAL REPORT ON VOTES CAST AT
MEETINGS OF REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATIONS

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN

MARCH 9, 2023

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

Maryland is one of 13 states and the District of Columbia that are members of the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) known as PJM. PJM is the largest RTO in the US, serving over 63 million people and comprised of many utility companies and electricity generation facilities. It serves important functions such as ensuring grid reliability.

Currently, the MGA is laying the foundation for a clean energy transition that is thorough to support both federal and state net-zero targets and swift in order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

PJM is unknown to many; however, decisions made at PJM significantly affect our climate, Maryland's energy mix, and consumer utility rates. For example, PJM's decisions regarding the capacity market have kept fossil fuel generators running longer which has slowed down the transition to renewables and unnecessarily increased costs for rate-payers. Further, PJM's rules on interconnections have delayed the hook-up and development of new clean energy generating facilities. **PJM's decision making essentially has the ability to override our state's policies and can significantly hamper Maryland's clean energy goals because of its unilateral control of grid infrastructure.**

The purpose of this bill is to increase transparency and accountability of stakeholders at PJM. This bill will require that any electric utility that is a member of PJM disclose to the Maryland Public Service Commission any recorded vote they make within that organization, regardless if such disclosure is required by PJM itself. Specifically, this legislation will ensure that a utility's votes at PJM proceedings are in the public interest of Marylanders as is required by state law.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1186.