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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 692: Public Service Commission - Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity - Local Permits

Position: FAVORABLE

Good afternoon Mr. Chair and my esteemed colleagues on the Economic Matters Committee. My name is Delegate Brian Crosby and I am here to speak on behalf of HB 692, entitled "Public Service Commission - Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity - Local Permits".

We have heard a lot about the importance of increasing the grid's capacity to transmit electricity so that we may onboard new offshore wind projects. This bill is intended to reduce barriers that may stand in the way of badly-needed grid improvements.

This bill is simple: It requires that local governments process any local permits required to construct a generating station or qualified generator lead line under a certificate of public convenience and necessity within a reasonable time frame.

This small change will have a positive impact on our state's ability to build the energy infrastructure that we need.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report.