

Janet Earp Galloway
21602 N. Ruhl Road
Freeland, MD 20153
marshja@earthlink.net
443-798-4331

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Re: HB1406 – CPCN Environmental Impact Analysis & Existing Burden Rpt
– In FAVOR

Dear Committee Members:

Your vote in favor of HB1406 to amend Maryland's Public Utilities law would safeguard communities from the environmental and public health risks associated with large-scale energy infrastructure projects. HB1406 would ensure that new transmission lines and power generation facilities do not disproportionately harm Maryland's residents and natural landscapes.

Applications for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) should require Comprehensive Environmental and Health Impact Studies to prove their project does not increase pollution, damage ecosystems, or harm public health. If the Existing Burden Report shows the affected areas already face environmental stress, then strict mitigation requirements should be met.
Making Developers Accountable to Communities. If unavoidable negative impacts exist, then developers should be accountable and establish a mitigation fund to compensate affected communities.

Using eminent domain to seize private land for profit driven projects should not be the basis for new projects. New projects should not proceed in Maryland without proving necessity and benefit to Marylanders.

Vote in favor of HB1406 for environmental and public health.

Regards,

Janet Earp Galloway