

March 4, 2025

James H. Belt, III

2626 Stone Road

Westminster, MD 21158

Maryland General Assembly

**RE: Support of bills advocating for a better approach to energy development**

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly:

My name is James Belt. As a resident of Carroll County and a proud Maryland business owner, I am writing to ask you to vote favorably for bills advocating a better approach to energy development.

As someone who had the potential to be impacted by the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project, I was disturbed and disappointed by the existing process for project consideration and protections for landowners. It became apparent that the current process did not require enough investigation into potential alternatives to the proposed transmission lines. Additionally, the public appeared to be brought into the process at later stages, making it harder for citizens impacted by the project to voice their concerns. It appears that there may be many viable alternatives to the proposed project. I also believe there has not been enough consideration to the impact of closing existing power plants before the State of Maryland has a viable alternative to generate the power being lost.

With that in mind, I would strongly encourage you to vote for the proposed bills that improve the process, provide more protection for Maryland citizens, and advocate for investigation into potentially better and more economic alternatives to new transmission lines.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best,

James Belt

(410)-236-3574