



Saving the Chesapeake's Great Rivers and Special Places

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Date: March 4, 2025

Bill Number: **HB 1079 - Public Service Commission - Study on the Electric Transmission and Distribution System**

Committee: House Economic Matters

Position: Favorable

Chairman Wilson and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

Chesapeake Conservancy supports **HB 1079 - Public Service Commission - Study on the Electric Transmission and Distribution System** for the purpose of greatly enhancing the efficiency of energy transmission and energy generation, as to prevent further development of Maryland's natural resources and natural areas.

This bill requires the Public Service Commission to conduct a study on the electric transmission system and the electric distribution system in the state. The purpose of the study is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the potential application of grid-enhancing technologies and advanced conductors in a manner that ensures system reliability and safeguards the cybersecurity and physical security of the electric transmission system and electric distribution system in Maryland.

Transmission line proposals like the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) – which is planned to bring transmission lines across Frederick, Baltimore, and Carroll Counties -- can cut through established forests, natural lands, and important ecosystems. Energy generation and transmission are necessary, but they should do so with the least amount of impact on Maryland's vital ecosystems.

Efficient energy production and transmission could help prevent further degradation of our vital lands. Chesapeake Conservancy is the only watershed-wide organization focused on both land conservation and stream restoration to achieve a healthier Chesapeake Bay. We ask that you continue to invest in conservation and restoration, and we thank you for your service.

For further information, please contact Mark Conway, Executive Vice President of External Affairs, at MConway@ChesapeakeConservancy.org or 443-321-3610.

We respectfully request a favorable committee report.