

**Favorable Testimony for
Wildland Areas - Overhead Transmission Lines**

HB1270

House Economic Matters Committee

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CCAN Action Fund urges a favorable report on HB1270. To address the climate crisis and transition to a clean energy economy we will have to build more transmission lines. Building these transmission lines in a way that minimizes costs and impacts to residents will speed the clean energy economy and lower energy costs.

CCAN understands that NextEra has been awarded the MARL transmission project, which would traverse Garrett and Allegany Counties. We also understand that one transmission route option would be largely parallel to an existing Potomac Edison transmission line. However, the existing Potomac Edison transmission line runs through Wildlands.

When compared to other potential alternative transmission routes the proposed Wildlands route would have less impacts to residents, farms, and businesses. In addition, the Wildlands route would affect less forest clearing, wetlands, and trout streams. It would also cost less for Marylanders as it is a much shorter route.

As you know, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Public Service Commission (PSC) will review whether this project should move forward in Maryland and what route makes the most sense for the community and the State. Unfortunately, if SB 399/HB 1270 do not pass during the 2024 General Assembly session, then the Wildlands route will be off the table for DNR/PPRP and PSC consideration during the CPCN process, which will take place later this year.

HB 1270 merely gives the PSC the option – after weighing a multitude of factors – to use a route paralleling an existing transmission line. It is still possible even with passage of this legislation that the PSC/DNR choose an alternative transmission route.

In sum, we support advancing HB 1270 to provide this route as an option for DNR/PSC during its CPCN consideration.



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