



thevpc.org | info@thevpc.org | 410.337.6877
118 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204
P.O. Box 5402 Towson, Maryland 21285-5402

Committee: Economic Matters

Testimony on: HB829 “Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: February 20, 2025

Valleys Planning Council, a non-profit that conserves land and resources, preserves historic character and maintains the rural feel and land uses in northwestern Baltimore County, urges a favorable report on HB829, which would expand the circumstances under which the Public Service Commission (PSC) is required to examine alternatives to the construction of a new transmission line.

Requiring applicants for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to construct an overhead transmission line to include an analysis of alternatives to the proposed transmission line, including those that could reduce the impact of the project on the environment, reduce costs to ratepayers, and avoid the transmission line altogether, makes good sense. Requiring the PSC to consider alternatives considered by PJM, the applicant, and alternatives submitted by other parties, will help keep applicants and PJM honest, though the “other parties” may be individuals without the necessary knowledge and skills to analyze the impact of a proposed transmission line and its alternatives. Those individuals, likely those affected by a proposed transmission line, would have to pay a consultant for such an analysis. The cost may be prohibitive, and that’s assuming a consultant willing to do the work can be found; many consultants are conflicted as they do work for transmission planners and builders.

Nevertheless, the process of allowing a new transmission line to be built will only be improved by adding accountability and elements of planning. Valleys Planning Council urges a favorable report on HB829.

Renée Hamidi
Executive Director
Valleys Planning Council

Protect. Preserve. Enjoy.