



HB829 – SUPPORT

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**TESTIMONY SUPPORTING HB829:
Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission
Technologies Act**

House Economic Matters Committee

February 20th, 2025

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee,

I write today on behalf of Ceres to urge a favorable report from the Committee on SB0037 concerning Advanced Transmission Technologies. Ceres works with investors, companies, and financial leaders to promote sustainability solutions. Through our Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy Network (BICEP), we mobilize over 85 major employers, including several businesses doing business in Maryland, to advocate for more effective climate and clean energy policies.

HB829 represents a smart business approach to modernizing Maryland's electric transmission system while protecting ratepayer interests. This legislation creates a framework for deploying cost-effective grid technologies that can increase capacity and reliability while potentially avoiding expensive new transmission lines.

Transmission congestion contributes to growing energy costs for Maryland ratepayers. Traditional solutions - building new transmission lines - are increasingly expensive and face significant siting challenges. HB829 opens the door to advanced technologies that can:

- Maximize existing transmission capacity
- Reduce congestion costs for businesses and residents
- Improve grid reliability and resilience
- Defer or avoid costly new transmission construction
- Enable faster integration of new power generation

The legislation includes several provisions designed to protect business interests while promoting grid modernization. Before utilities can build new transmission lines, they must analyze cost-effective alternatives, ensuring that ratepayers don't pay for unnecessary infrastructure. The bill creates important transparency around congestion costs and potential solutions, while establishing a biennial reporting requirement that helps identify opportunities to optimize the grid. Utilities can recover reasonable costs for implementing proven technologies, encouraging innovation while protecting ratepayers through comprehensive alternatives analysis. These balanced provisions ensure that grid modernization proceeds in a fiscally responsible way that benefits both utilities and their customers.

By requiring utilities to evaluate advanced transmission technologies, this bill helps ensure that Maryland businesses have access to reliable, affordable electricity through the most cost-effective solutions available. The reporting requirements will help identify opportunities to reduce congestion costs while maintaining system reliability.

Leading companies already use these technologies successfully in other markets. This legislation positions Maryland to benefit from proven innovations that can reduce costs while improving performance.

I respectfully request a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Mauk
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