

Senator John N. Bambacus (Senate of Maryland 1982-1990)

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**HB 1270 NATURAL RESOURCES-WILDLAND AREAS-OVERHEAD
TRANSMISSION LINES** By: Delegate Hinebaugh

UNFAVORABLE

This bill undermines legislative intent by proposing an exemption to build a controversial high-powered electric transmission line through three protected areas (COMAR 08.01.02.02) in the Big Savage Mountain Wildland, Bear Pen Wildland, and Dan's Mountain Wildland, an area of 8,443 acres located in Garrett and Allegany Counties.

An **UNFAVORABLE REPORT** is requested for the following reasons:

1. There was no open, transparent, or comprehensive civic engagement prior to the bill's submission. None of the comprehensive planning involved the general public.
2. The bill is premature and oversteps State authority as demands for high-voltage electricity supply are overstated and not proven. There is a fear that unnecessary disruption would occur near the existing and expanded ROW.
3. Farmers, landowners, environmentalists, and political leaders were not made aware by Delegate Hinebaugh that this legislation was being considered for introduction. There have been no public meetings or opportunities for public input on this project.
4. There has been a firestorm of criticism from farmers, landowners, homeowners and those holding agricultural and conservation easements who fear their land could be taken from them through *EMINENT DOMAIN*.
5. There needs to be a *MAP* of the exempted transmission line routes being proposed in the bill throughout the affected Wildlands and the protected Youghiogheny Scenic and Wild River Corridor.
6. There has been no determination that these high-voltage electrical lines will serve the interests of the State and its people when there are other forms of energy being considered by the governor and legislative leadership
7. Granting exceptions to protected land use through established Wildlands and the Scenic and Wild River corridor should follow the established statutory and regulatory framework, and not circumvent the existing process.