



# Maryland

## Energy Administration

**TO:** Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee  
**FROM:** MEA  
**SUBJECT:** HB 1396 - Property Rights Protection Act of 2025  
**DATE:** March 6, 2025

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### **MEA Position: UNFAVORABLE**

This bill prohibits the use of eminent domain for constructing power lines and clean energy projects.

This bill presents a significant barrier to meeting Maryland's energy demand, while undermining the state's commitments to clean energy development and emissions reduction. The transition to clean energy is critical for ensuring energy security and price stability for Maryland's residents. The proposed restrictions in this bill will delay or even halt necessary projects that connect clean energy to the grid.

The expansion of clean energy generation requires a robust transmission network. By prohibiting the use of eminent domain, this bill makes it significantly more difficult to build the necessary infrastructure for clean energy transmission, resulting in grid inefficiencies, energy congestion, and increased costs for consumers.

Furthermore, if enacted, this bill will discourage investment in Maryland's energy sectors, diverting projects to other states with more favorable regulatory environments. Not only will this cost Maryland valuable jobs and economic opportunities, it will jeopardize the state's grid reliability.

For the reasons outlined above, MEA urges the committee to issue an **unfavorable report**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy Manager, directly at [megan.outten@maryland.gov](mailto:megan.outten@maryland.gov), 443-842-1780).