

HB0645 strengthens local control over transmission projects by requiring counties to integrate electric system planning into approval processes, ensuring alignment with land use goals. It prioritizes using existing infrastructure and corridors over new developments, reducing eminent domain seizures. The bill also promotes underground transmission lines to minimize aesthetic and environmental harm. Utilities must justify new infrastructure with demand-based reports, preventing unnecessary expansion. Additionally, it enhances transparency by holding utilities accountable for adhering to local planning policies. HB0645 supports property rights, farmland preservation, local decision-making, and responsible energy planning, making it a key measure to curb reckless transmission expansion. PJM is not looking out for Maryland ratepayers, we need legislation like HB0645 to protect Marylanders. The proposed MPRP threatens devastating irreparable damage to Maryland's environment, economy and agriculture industry. The data center proliferation in Northern Virginia shouldn't create new transmission line proliferation in our beautiful state. Please vote favorably for this bill.

Respectfully,
Brenda Myers