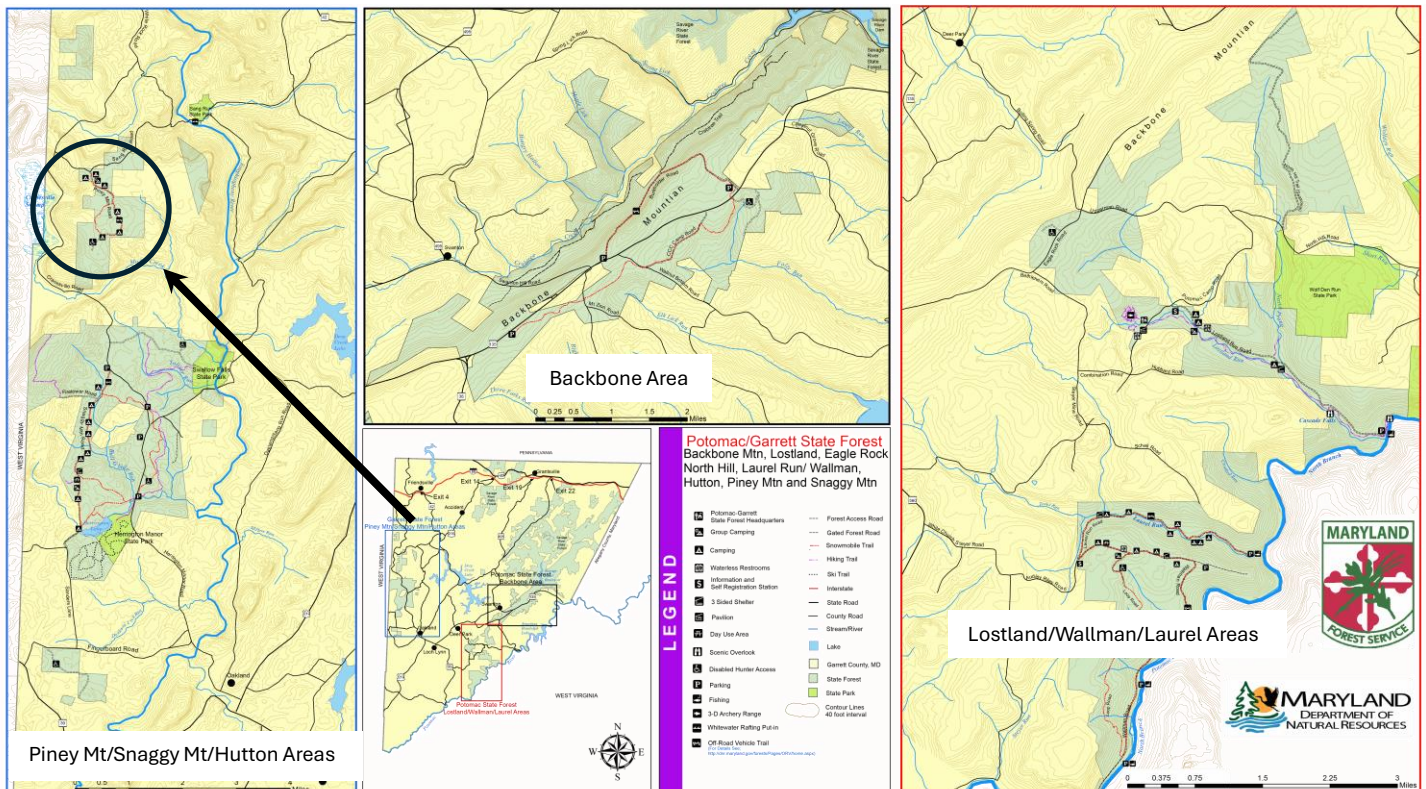


UNFAVORABLE

Written Testimony Submitted to: Economic Matters Committee Maryland General Assembly HB1270_Logsdon_pdf

Overview: My name is Michael Logsdon and I am/have been involved with many aspects of Garrett County Maryland's primary industry and main economic engine Outdoor Recreation. I am concerned about the impact of Delegate Hinebaugh's submission of House Bill 1270 (concerning Natural Resources – Wildland Areas - Overhead Transmission Lines). I express this concern through several of my Outdoor Recreation related involvements.

As a current member of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Potomac/Garrett State Forest (PGSF) Citizen Advisory Committee, I observe a map of NextEra's Draft Study Area overlaps a portion of the state forest Piney Mountain/Snaggy Mountain/Hutton Area, particularly the northern Piney Mountain portion (circled). This portion contains seven campsites, an Off-Road Vehicle Trail and a Disabled Hunter Access accommodation, all located along Piney Mountain Road. An Overhead Transmission Line strung above or near to these facilities would significantly diminish their attractive nature. In addition, the PGSF manages timber resources, resulting in timber sales. The loss of timber by the creation of access and clearance under the Overhead Transmission Line will impact this financial resource.



Potomac/Garrett State Forest areas of management.

As current Vice-President of Garrett Trails, a nonprofit, volunteer organization dedicated to the development of a well-used network of high-quality, sustainable trails that provide access to Garrett County’s historic, municipal, and environmental treasures, I am concerned about the impact of the Overhead Transmission Line to the desirability of several trails as they traverse State Wild Lands. Wild Lands are designated by the Maryland General Assembly as wildlands areas. These lands are managed for passive outdoor recreation such as **hiking, hunting, fishing, trapping, bird watching, horseback riding and nature interpretation**. Ten of the State’s 38 designated Wild Lands are in Garrett County totaling 15,909 acres. Most of these sites are classified as Type 1, meaning a primitive area which by its size and location is in effect untouched by urban civilization and can offer the experience of solitude and self-reliance. Type 1 Wild Lands are usually lands located at higher elevations that protect watersheds and are ecologically vulnerable to human interferences.

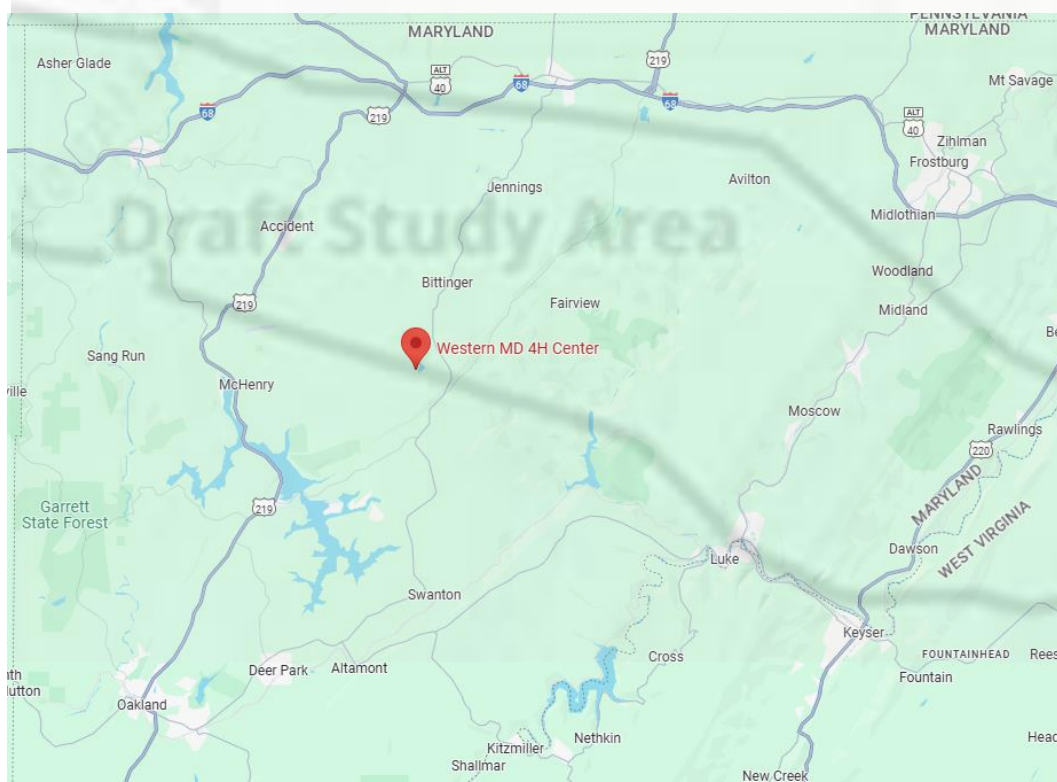
| Site | Type | Project Acreage | Location | County |
|---------------------|------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------|
| Big Savage Mountain | 1 | 2,879 | Savage River SF | Garrett |
| Bear Pen | 1 | 1,517 | Savage River SF | Garrett |
| Middle Fork | 1 | 2,932 | Savage River SF | Garrett |
| High Rock | 1 | 650 | Savage River SF | Garrett |
| Savage Ravines | 1 | 2,789 | Savage River SF | Garrett |
| Upper White Rock | 1 | 300 | Garrett SF | Garrett |
| Backbone Mountain | 1 | 1,706 | Potomac SF/Savage River SF | Garrett |
| Maple Lick Run | 1 | 600 | Potomac SF | Garrett |
| Puzzley Run | 1 | 457 | Savage River SF | Garrett |
| South Savage | 2 | 2,079 | Savage River SF | Garrett |
| | | 15,909 | | |

Designated Wild Lands of Garrett County Maryland.

Again, Outdoor Recreation and closely related service businesses (lodging, food, fuel, etc.) are Garrett County’s primary industry and main economic engine. Maintaining the primitive nature of Wild Lands is an important component in supporting this industry.

As a past member of the Garrett College faculty and administrative staff for 44 years (1976-2020 now retired), including positions as Executive Director of Garrett College’s Adventuresports Institute® and Program Director of Garrett College’s Adventure Sports Degree Program the backcountry/primitive teaching/learning areas of Garrett County and the surrounding regions in nearby West Virginia and Pennsylvania are of utmost importance. The more frequently these areas are “developed” the less attractive and less impactful they become as effective teaching/learning venues. Infrastructures such as the proposed Overhead Transmission Line detract from the desirability and usefulness for Outdoor Recreation teaching/learning venues.

As a current member of the Local Advisory Board of the Western Maryland 4-H Education Center, a rustic facility owned by the University of Maryland and managed by our Local Advisory Board that serves hundreds of youth and adults every year, I observe the NextEra Draft Study Area map engages properties managed by our Local Advisory Board. I am concerned about maintaining the rustic nature of this facility as well as the loss of timber the harvesting of such is a significant source of revenue for the University and goes to support the 4H Center's operations.



Above, the location of the Western Maryland 4H Education Center with a transparent Draft Study Area overlay. **Below**, images of the rustic Western Maryland 4H Education Center.

In Summary, I oppose HB 1270 for the various concerns I have indicated. I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully submitted,



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