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Committee: Economic Matters

Testimony on: HB1396 “Property Rights Protection Act of 2025 “

Position: Support

Hearing Date: March 6, 2025

Valleys Planning Council, a non-profit that conserves land and resources, preserves historic character and maintains the rural feel and land uses in northwestern Baltimore County, urges a favorable report on HB1396, which would prohibit electric companies from using eminent domain to acquire a property to construct a power line, and would prohibit a person from using eminent domain to buy property to construct a generating station that produces electricity from wind or solar energy

One of the reasons landowners choose to preserve their land is to protect it from development. Landowners give up certain rights for the greater good. Eminent domain takes land for the greater good. This bill recognizes that the State and counties cannot be the arbiters of what is a “greater” greater good that would allow for the use of eminent domain.

Valleys Planning Council urges a favorable report on HB1396.

Renée Hamidi
Executive Director
Valleys Planning Council

Protect. Preserve. Enjoy.