



Maryland Farm Bureau

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March 6, 2025

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: Support – HB1270 – Natural Resources - Wildland Areas - Overhead Transmission Lines

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in support of HB1270 - Natural Resources - Wildland Areas - Overhead Transmission Lines. This proposed legislation would exempt certain areas in the Big Savage Mountain Wildland, Bear Pen Wildland, and Dan's Mountain Wildland from being designated as a wildland area, subject to a certificate of public convenience and necessity being obtained for a certain transmission line.

It has been brought to the attention of the Maryland Farm Bureau that NextEra Energy is constructing a transmission line in western Maryland, specifically in Garrett and Allegany Counties. It is our understanding that one possible route would be to run the new NextEra transmission line parallel to an existing Potomac Edison transmission line. Unfortunately, the existing Potomac Edison line runs through three Wildlands and without passage of HB 1270, then the Maryland Public Service Commission would not have this route option, which is less impactful to Maryland farms.

Running parallel to the existing Potomac Edison transmission line appears to be the most direct and shortest route for NextEra's transmission line. We understand that compared to potential alternative routes that the Wildlands route would have less impacts to local farms in western Maryland. As you know, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Public Service Commission (PSC) will review whether this project should move forward in Maryland. This legislation merely gives the PSC the option – after weighing a multitude of factors – to use a route paralleling an existing transmission line.

To be clear, Maryland Farm Bureau's support of HB1270 is in no way in support of the construction of the NextEra Energy proposed transmission line through Garrett and Allegany County.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', with a horizontal line above it.

Tyler Hough

Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions