February 20, 2025
Economic Matters Committee

HB 0829
Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies
Sponsor: Delegate Lorig Charkoudian

Katie Mettle
Policy Principal, Advanced Energy United

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and esteemed members of the Economic Matters Committee:

Advanced Energy United is an industry association that represents companies operating in the clean energy space. Our mission is to accelerate the transition to a 100% clean energy economy.

HB 0829 will require transmission owners to conduct an analysis on whether alternative routes or the deployment of advanced transmission technologies could be preferable to building an overhead transmission line. It also requires transmission owners to submit a report every 2 years to the Public Service Commission that will require transmission owners to anticipate future transmission needs and plan accordingly, including the requirement that if feasible, transmission owners create an advanced transmission technology plan. It also gives the Public Service Commission the ability to authorize reasonable cost recovery for the use of advanced transmission technologies under certain circumstances.

This bill has the potential to save ratepayers money, by encouraging and even incentivizing the use of technologies that are more cost-effective than building additional overhead transmission lines.

We would like to respectfully request an amendment to the definition of "advanced transmission technologies. Our preferred language is below:

"Advanced transmission technologies" means a set of hardware and software technologies that increase the capacity, efficiency, reliability, or resilience of an existing or new transmission facility, including, but not limited to:

a. *Advanced conductors;*
b. *Grid-enhancing technologies; and*
c. *Any other technology as determined by the Commission.*

"Advanced conductor" means a conductor that has a direct current electrical resistance at least 10 percent lower than existing conductors of a similar diameter, while simultaneously increasing capacity by at least 75% on the system and may include rebuilding support structures or other associated facilities.

"Grid-enhancing technology" means a hardware or software technology that reduces congestion or enhances the flexibility of electric transmission and distribution systems by increasing the capacity of a line or rerouting electricity from overloaded to uncongested lines, while maintaining industry safety standards. This includes, but is not limited to:

a. *Dynamic line ratings;*
b. *Advanced power flow controllers;*
c. *Topology optimization; and*
d. *Other technologies that increase grid reliability, flexibility, and capacity.*

We respectfully request the Committee issue a favorable report with amendments. Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Katie Mettle, Policy Principal
Advanced Energy United
kmettle@advancedenergyunited.org
202.380.1950 x3197