



## TESTIMONY FOR HB1079

### Public Service Commission – Study on the Electric Transmission and Distribution System

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo

**Committee:** Economic Matters

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB1079 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members are very aware of the budget constraints this year, but we believe that it is prudent to invest in this study. Demands on our electric grid are increasing rapidly and it is clear that the Utilities and the Public Service Commission are playing catch-up – just trying to put out the next fire.

Poor decisions are being made that could very much impact us in the near-term future. This study would require the Public Service Commission to look at grid-enhancing technologies to ensure system reliability and security (both cybersecurity and physical security) for our electric transmission system. They will first identify inadequacies and try to determine alternatives to building transmission lines, such as -

- dynamic line rating
- power flow controllers
- topology optimization; and
- other hardware or software designed to reduce congestion or enhance the flexibility of the system

They will then identify any investments that need to be made. This just makes sense. We should always attack a problem with a plan, and right now, we don't seem to have one.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.