

MICHELE GUYTON
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Baltimore County

Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 20, 2025

Favorable - HB 640
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity –
Overhead Transmission Lines Conservation Easements

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of HB 640. This bill is introduced in response to concerns raised by the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project that proposes a new transmission line across Baltimore, Frederick, and Carroll counties. These proposed lines would cut through preserved agricultural land and would have a negative impact on our farmland and food and fiber production. This action would also negate the state's commitment to preserve 600,000 acres of agricultural and open space by 2040 (The Maryland the Beautiful Act of 2023).

HB 640 simply requires the applicant for transmission lines to minimize the impact on the properties that are in the proposed route and subject to an existing conservation or agricultural easement.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB 640 to help protect Marylanders' land and livelihood as well as preserved natural resources and ecosystems.

This bill is cross-filed by Senator Ben Brooks in the Senate as SB 34.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton D42B