

Testimony in Support of HB1397

Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1397.

The **Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP)** threatens to seize private and agricultural land for a high-voltage transmission line that may not even be necessary. It ignores modern grid efficiency technologies that could eliminate the need for costly and environmentally destructive expansion. HB1397 is critical in addressing this issue by:

- **Requiring a review of alternative technologies**—such as advanced conductors, dynamic line rating, and distributed energy storage—that can increase transmission capacity without the need for new lines.
- **Slowing down rushed approvals** of transmission projects that fail to justify their necessity.
- **Protecting rural landowners and farmers** by making new construction a last resort rather than the default approach.

If enacted, HB1397 will subject MPRP to stricter scrutiny, increasing the likelihood that it is rejected or significantly revised.

Beyond MPRP, this bill sets an important precedent for **modernizing Maryland's grid policy**. It ensures that:

- Policymakers and the public demand **better solutions than the outdated "build more lines" approach**.
- Utilities prioritize **efficiency over expansion**, preventing unnecessary land seizures.
- Grid reliability improves through **smarter, cost-effective investments**, reducing environmental and financial burdens.

I urge you to support HB1397 to protect landowners, encourage responsible grid development, and ensure Maryland adopts a forward-thinking approach to energy infrastructure. Thank you.

Brenda Myers