

HB0640_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON HB#0640 – FAVORABLE
**Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Overhead Transmission Lines -
Conservation Easements**

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

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0640, Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Overhead Transmission Lines - Conservation Easements

This bill is an environmental protection measure that seeks to preserve existing conservation easements from encroachment by overhead electrical transmission lines. This bill will Require the Public Service Commission to consider the impact of the development of overhead transmission lines on certain properties subject to an existing conservation easement in certain proceedings for a certificate of public convenience and necessity. It establishes that companies wishing to construct transmission lines must do due diligence to document whether alternatives exist that do not impact those areas. It will accomplish that by requiring the Commission to require an applicant for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the development of overhead transmission lines to consider alternative routes for transmission lines affecting conservation easements or alter proposed routes.

Because of this bill both the PSC and the public can decide if the proposal takes into account environmental and other factors that can and will affect the quality of life and economies of affected jurisdictions and their residents. It will provide tools that can be used in evaluation of proposals by both local and regional transmission organizations for electrical infrastructure construction. It adds to the knowledge base on which an intelligent decision on permitting can occur.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0640.