

Testimony in Support of HB1218

Chair, Members of the Committee:

I strongly urge you to support HB1218, a bill that temporarily halts the approval of new transmission lines in Maryland until **May 2026** and establishes the **Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland**. This bill is essential to ensuring that energy infrastructure decisions are based on **comprehensive analysis and public interest—not corporate expansion agendas**.

Key Provisions of HB1218

This bill requires a **fact-based assessment** of Maryland's energy future by evaluating:

- Forecasted **electricity needs** for 2026, 2030, 2035, and 2040.
- Maryland's **dependence on out-of-state electricity imports** and strategies to reduce it.
- **Cost estimates** for ratepayers under different energy supply scenarios.
- **Policy recommendations** to improve energy independence and efficiency.
- **Alternative strategies**, including nuclear expansion, renewable energy, and energy storage.

HB1218 as a Direct Challenge to MPRP

The **Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP)** is a highly controversial transmission expansion that would **seize private land, devalue properties, and impose long-term environmental and economic harm**—without clear evidence that it is necessary.

HB1218 creates a **direct roadblock** to MPRP by:

- **Prohibiting the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC)** from approving new transmission projects while the task force develops a **data-driven energy plan**.

- Preventing **PJM Interconnection and utility interests** from fast-tracking MPRP without proper review of its necessity or alternatives.
- Ensuring that Maryland considers **localized energy solutions** before committing to massive transmission expansion.

Beyond MPRP: A Better Energy Future for Maryland

HB1218 does more than stop one project—it **redefines how Maryland plans its energy future** by ensuring:

- **Transmission expansion is not the default solution**—Maryland must prioritize **local energy generation, grid efficiency, and modernization**.
- **Communities and landowners have a voice**—Utility companies cannot **dictate infrastructure projects** without public input.
- **Maryland moves toward energy independence**—Reducing reliance on imported electricity will enhance **resilience, cost-effectiveness, and environmental sustainability**.

Conclusion

HB1218 is a necessary step to **pause reckless transmission expansion and prioritize thoughtful, long-term energy planning**. Instead of allowing **utility-driven projects** to dictate Maryland's energy future, we must ensure **every project serves the public interest**.

I respectfully urge you to **support HB1218** to protect Maryland's communities, economy, and energy security.

Thank you,

Brenda Myers