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Committee: Economic Matters

Testimony on: HB1079 “Public Service Commission – Study on the Electric Transmission and Distribution System”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: March 11, 2025

Valleys Planning Council, a non-profit that conserves land and resources, preserves historic character and maintains the rural feel and land uses in northwestern Baltimore County, urges a favorable report on HB1079, which would require the Public Service Commission (PSC) to conduct a study on the electric transmission and distribution systems in Maryland.

It’s surprising the PSC isn’t already required to identify possible future inadequacies in the electric transmission system, identify grid-enhancing technologies that might be alternatives to building new transmission lines, and Identify investments necessary to modernize the electric transmission and distribution systems. It may be asking too much to give the PSC just 3 months to accomplish this. But if no other agency is looking at Maryland’s electric transmission and distribution systems with the goal of enhancing reliability and security and identifying ways to avoid building new lines, then the PSC ought to do it.

Valleys Planning Council urges a favorable report on HB1079.

Renée Hamidi  
Executive Director  
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