

Testimony: HB1270 - Natural Resources - Wildland Areas - Overhead Transmission Lines
Committee: Economic Matters
Hearing Date: March 6, 2025
Position: OPPOSE

Dear Members of House Economic Matters:

My name is Ron Boyer. I am a long-time resident of Garrett County and live within four miles of the existing and proposed transmission lines. This letter is to express my very strong opposition to House Bill 1270 - Natural Resources - Wildlands Areas - Overhead Transmission Lines. I am requesting that you vote NO on this bill.

The Wildlands of the State of Maryland represent less than 1% of all the land in Maryland. It would seem to me that since the State set aside this land to “preserve sensitive habitats for future and present generations”, a less impactful route could be planned.

In oral testimony for the cross-filed SB 0399 Senator McKay and NextEra representatives stated that there had been “50 public meetings” on this topic. I read our local papers and listen to local radio everyday, but I did not hear of one such meeting. This leads me to question what else is not true and/or accurate. Senator McKay and a NextEra representative also stated that Garrett and Allegany Counties would be receiving “450 million dollars in revenue over 40 years” without any explanation as to how.

At this time only the Governor has the authority (with public input) to submit changes to Wildland management and boundaries. Passage of this bill would change that, allowing any legislator to propose a bill that could threaten the long-time integrity of this policy and negatively impact Maryland Wildlands.

So in conclusion, I urge you to vote NO on HB 1270. This 1% of Maryland’s land was set aside for preservation. Placing a new transmission corridor or expanding the existing one would drastically negate the Maryland Wildlands Preservation System Statute that was approved by the General Assembly.

Thank you,

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