

HB1079_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON HB#1079 – FAVORABLE

Public Service Commission - Study on the Electric Transmission and Distribution System

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 HB1079 - Public Service Commission - Study on the Electric Transmission and Distribution System

Despite large opposition from citizens and multiple levels of government to plans such as The Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP), a proposed critical system (grid) enhancement (update) that has been awarded to PSEG by PJM, the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) responsible for operating and planning the regional electric grid in all or parts of thirteen states, including Maryland, and the project appears to be on the way to approval. ¹.

This bill forces an examination of the electric generation and transmission paradigm to evaluate if there is a better way to accomplish the goals being defined. It accomplishes this goal by requiring the Public Service Commission to conduct a study on the electric transmission system and the electric distribution system in the State. This study's purpose is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the potential application of grid-enhancing technologies and advanced conductors in a manner that ensures system reliability and safeguards the cybersecurity and physical security of the electric transmission system and electric distribution system in Maryland.

This bill is designed to increase a forward thinking planning process that searches for better solutions to Maryland's electrical grid upgrade processes.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#1079

¹ <https://www.wmar2news.com/local/community-unites-against-maryland-piedmont-reliability-project-at-heated-information-session>