

Testimony in Support of HB1219

Chair, Members of the Committee:

I urge you to support HB1219, which establishes a framework for **on-site power generation at data centers that are not connected to the electric grid**. By allowing large energy consumers, like data centers, to generate their own electricity independently, HB1219 provides a sustainable alternative to massive transmission projects such as the **Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP)**.

Key Benefits of HB1219

1. Eliminates the Need for New Transmission Lines

The justification for the MPRP is that growing energy demand—particularly from data centers—requires expanded transmission infrastructure. HB1219 **challenges this premise** by enabling energy-intensive facilities to **generate power on-site** without drawing from the grid. This shift makes large transmission expansions unnecessary.

2. Protects Rural Communities and Farmland

The MPRP threatens **private land, forests, and historic landscapes** by using eminent domain to seize property for transmission corridors. HB1219 **removes the rationale for these land seizures**, ensuring that data centers do not drive unnecessary infrastructure projects at the expense of Maryland's rural communities.

3. Undermines the Push for Future Transmission Expansion

If Maryland embraces **localized power generation**, the need for large-scale transmission investments—often promoted by **PJM Interconnection and major utilities**—**diminishes significantly**. HB1219 sets a precedent for **distributed energy solutions** over utility-driven expansion.

4. Increases Transparency and Accountability

Unlike transmission projects that often proceed with **minimal community input**, HB1219 mandates **annual reporting on energy use, environmental impact, and contributions to state energy goals**. This **ensures regulatory oversight** while preventing unchecked corporate control over energy development.

HB1219 as a Model for Future Energy Reform

Beyond stopping the MPRP, HB1219 represents a **larger shift toward sustainable and community-focused energy policy** by:

- **Encouraging Distributed Energy Solutions** – On-site generation strengthens energy resilience while reducing reliance on vulnerable transmission networks.
- **Preventing Utility Overreach** – Transmission projects are often driven by **profit motives**, forcing **ratepayers and landowners** to bear the costs while utilities benefit.
- **Advancing Maryland's Clean Energy Goals** – Localized power generation ensures new energy infrastructure aligns with **efficiency and environmental standards**.

Conclusion

HB1219 is a **practical, forward-thinking solution** that prioritizes **energy independence, landowner rights, and environmental responsibility**. It directly challenges the flawed reasoning behind projects like MPRP and shifts Maryland's energy strategy toward **localized, accountable power generation**.

I respectfully urge you to **support HB1219** to protect Maryland's communities, landscapes, and energy future. Maryland can lead the way, will we?

Thank you,

Brenda Myers