

Testimony in Support of HB 0829

Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **HB 0829**.

This bill represents a much-needed shift in how Maryland—and potentially other states—approach **energy transmission planning**. Instead of rubber-stamping large-scale projects that burden **ratepayers and landowners**, HB 0829 ensures that Maryland prioritizes:

- **Grid efficiency** over unnecessary expansion
- **Local and distributed energy solutions** that reduce reliance on massive infrastructure projects
- **Environmental and community protections** to prevent harmful land seizures and ecological damage
- **Fair cost considerations** to keep energy rates affordable for Maryland residents

By enacting **HB 0829**, Maryland can move toward a **smarter, more sustainable approach to energy infrastructure**, ensuring that future projects serve the public interest—not just the interests of large utilities. I urge you to support this bill and put Maryland on a path toward a more **efficient, fair, and community-driven energy future**. Maryland legislators have the opportunity to lead the way, please do.

Thank you.

Brenda Myers