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**Testimony in support of HB1362** Eminent Domain and Just Compensation

To: Economic Matters Committee  
From: Elizabeth (“Betsy”) and Michael McFarland

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

We are residents of Adamstown, Maryland, and we write to express our strong **support for HB1362 - Eminent Domain and Just Compensation**. This bill is essential in ensuring that property owners are fairly compensated in condemnation proceedings by covering not only the fair market value of the land taken but also any legal, expert, or other fees incurred in defending against the action.

As longtime Maryland residents and homeowners in Frederick County, **our property lies directly in the path of the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP)**, which is currently before the Maryland Public Service Commission. PSEG has made it clear that they intend to use eminent domain to seize our land. To protect our property from being unjustly taken and destroyed, we have filed a petition to intervene at the Maryland PSC.

Facing potential eminent domain is terrifying. Our home and property are not only where we live—they represent our biggest financial investment. Now, an out-of-state corporation seeks to take a significant portion of it for their own gain, while simultaneously raising our electricity rates to pay for it.

Beyond the potential loss of our home and land, **we are also burdened with the high costs of hiring attorneys and experts to defend our rights. Currently, even if we win, we will not be reimbursed for these expenses.** This is unfair and places an undue financial burden on property owners who are already fighting to protect what is rightfully theirs.

**We strongly urge you to support HB1362** to ensure that Maryland property owners are not financially disadvantaged when defending themselves against eminent domain takings.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Betsy and Michael McFarland