



TESTIMONY FOR HB1225

Public Utilities – Electric Distribution System Plans – Establishment (Affordable Grid Act)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Qi

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB1225 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members feel like what is happening with our electric grid is reactionary. There does not seem to be much planning involved. Given that our requirements for power are growing exponentially, it makes sense to inject some forward planning into the process.

This bill will require electric companies to submit distribution system plans to the Public Service Commission every three years utilizing bottom-up forecasting of projected load requirements and that incorporates increases in vehicle and building electrification and the goals of state and local decarbonization policies. It will also ensure electric companies develop investment plans to modernize and upgrade their assets to meet their forecasted needs and maximize energy efficiency upgrades.

Finally, it will mandate comprehensive planning that considers grid capacity, and prioritizes overburdened communities. This is something we should be doing, but clearly need a push to make sure it happens.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.