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Committee: Economic Matters

Testimony on: HB657 “Public Utilities – Alternatives to Construction of New Transmission Lines”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: February 20, 2025

Valleys Planning Council, a non-profit that conserves land and resources, preserves historic character and maintains the rural feel and land uses in northwestern Baltimore County, urges a favorable report on HB657, which would expand the circumstances under which the Public Service Commission is required to examine alternatives to the construction of a new transmission line.

Energy transmission line building projects do not now require companies that build the projects to investigate alternatives to new lines. Companies are not required to consider any of a county’s provisions in its comprehensive plan to protect historical, environmental, or agricultural preservation areas. HB657 would require the PSC to examine alternatives that would maintain a County’s preservation areas and promote efficient service to the public. This bill could reduce costs to ratepayers and reduce the impact of increasing electrical energy needs on Maryland and its residents.

Valleys Planning Council urges a favorable report on HB657.

Renée Hamidi
Executive Director
Valleys Planning Council

Protect. Preserve. Enjoy.