

HB0121_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON HB#0121 – FAVORABLE

Electric Companies - Regional Transmission Organizations - Report (Utility Transparency and Accountability Act)

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and members of the Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0121, Electric Companies - Regional Transmission Organizations - Report (Utility Transparency and Accountability Act)

Despite large opposition from citizens and multiple levels of government to plans such as The Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP), a proposed critical system (grid) enhancement (update) that has been awarded to PSEG by PJM, the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) responsible for operating and planning the regional electric grid in all or parts of thirteen states, including Maryland the project appears to be one the way to approval. ¹.

This bill is a sunshine bill; it will give the public knowledge of the processes involved in decisions by electric companies and their affiliates when meeting on regional transmission matters. It will accomplish that by requiring an electric company, other than a municipal electric utility, by February 1 each year, to submit a report to the Public Service Commission regarding each recorded vote cast by the electric company and any of its affiliates at a meeting of a regional transmission organization. Because of this both the PSC and the public can make a determination if the proposal takes into account environmental and other factors that can and will affect the quality of life and economies of affected jurisdictions and their residents. It will provide tools that can be used in evaluation of proposals by the Regional Transmission Organizations.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0121.

¹ <https://www.wmar2news.com/local/community-unites-against-maryland-piedmont-reliability-project-at-heated-information-session>