



TESTIMONY FOR SB0037
Electric Companies – Regional Transmission Organizations – Report
(Utility Transparency and Accountability Act)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hester

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0037 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.

There have been many pieces of legislation passed and rules enacted to try to get governmental agencies in Maryland to be transparent. There are rules about meeting notifications and rules about releasing information on websites and other mediums. But transparency remains a problem.

Electric companies are members of PJM, our Regional Transmission Organization (RTO). They vote on projects that directly affect the transmission of electricity in Maryland and surrounding states, yet we know little of what happens in their meetings.

The bill will require each electric company to submit a report to the Public Service Commission by February 1st of each year showing each recorded vote cast by the electric company, or an affiliate, during a meeting of the Regional Transmission Organization for the previous year.

Passing this bill will provide much-needed transparency into the process, and hopefully through that transparency, ensure that we understand what PJM members are supporting.

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