



HB0829

Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Testimony before Education, Energy, and the Environment

Hearing March 26, 2025

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee, my name is Virginia Smith, and I represent the 900+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of HB0829**, which alters the definition of “qualified generator lead line” to include advanced transmission technology, while also strengthening the Public Service Commission (PSC) process for issuing a certificate of public convenience and necessity. With amendments added through the process, it also adds the possibility that the PSC may consider providing financial incentives for the use of Advanced Transmission Technologies. We thank Delegate Charkoudian for sponsoring this bill.

Electricity needs are growing in the state, but building new transmission lines that will provide the appropriate amount of energy to the parts of the state that need it, can be expensive and cause much controversy. For instance, Marylanders will have to pay increased rates to cover \$796 million in transmission upgradesⁱ. Instead, Maryland should focus on getting more from the current power lines by considering advanced transmission technology, which this bill will support. Advanced transmission technology is a term for infrastructure, hardware, or software that increases the capacity, efficiency, reliability, or resilience of new or existing transmission lines.

This bill also includes common sense requirements for applicants wanting a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction of overhead transmission lines, including alternatives to the proposed lines, such as using advanced transmission technology, alternative routes, the cost to ratepayers, energy efficiency and demand response, and impacts of the project on the environment. These requirements will ensure that electricity needs increase in a cost-effective, environmentally safe method.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Virginia Smith
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ⁱ [FERC approves PJM’s Exelon-oriented \\$796M transmission plan over Maryland objections | Utility Dive](#)