

Committee: Education, Energy, and Environment
Testimony on: SB-908 - Public Utilities - Electric Distribution System Plans -
Establishment (Affordable Grid Act)
Submitting: Rhonda Kranz
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 6, 2025

Dear Mr. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in support of SB908- Public Utilities - Electric Distribution System Plans - Establishment (Affordable Grid Act). I have lived in Montgomery County Maryland for over thirty years and have seen how our state has grown and with it our energy demands. This bill will prevent the overbuilding or underbuilding of distribution infrastructure and increase the adoption of lower-cost noncapital and non-wires solutions relative to traditional distribution infrastructure (i.e. poles and wires).

Maryland is facing a major challenge; already over-burdened we see exponentially increasing demands from data centers, the transportation sector and other large projects that are already waiting to come on line. Maryland has set strong laudable goals for producing clean, affordable, and reliable energy. Our electric grid is a major component of meeting these goals.

The reality is that our grid can continue as it is. Our electric grid is over 100 years old, and the distribution structures nearly as old. And yet the demands on this system are more complex than ever before. Meeting these demands will require incorporating new grid technologies and new ways of thinking about how we can increase our energy, be more efficient, and decrease costs. It will also require collaboration across all the agencies, utilities, business, and other stakeholders.

The Affordable Grid Act will provide a framework for the transition of Maryland's electric grid to clean energy. We need to insure that our distribution planning process is done right to meet our increasing energy needs and our state's climate goals. I urge you to vote **Favorable** for The Affordable Grid Act SB-908,