

February 11, 2025

Senator Hester:

The MPRP, proposed under the justification of "grid reliability," was largely driven by decisions made within PJM Interconnection, the RTO that manages the electric grid across Maryland and surrounding states. The problem is that:

- **Utilities and their affiliates participate in PJM's voting process without clear public oversight.**
- **Decisions favoring large, utility-backed transmission projects are often made without alternative solutions (such as distributed energy resources) being seriously considered.**
- **Affected communities, state regulators, and legislators rarely have visibility into how and why these transmission projects get approved.**

By tracking utility voting patterns, SB0037 helps uncover whether utilities are resisting these modern solutions in favor of more transmission lines.

Conclusion: SB0037 as a Tool to Prevent Future MPRP-Like Projects
The Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) represents a failure of transparency and accountability in the energy sector—a failure that SB0037 seeks to correct. By requiring electric companies to disclose their votes within RTOs, this bill empowers regulators, lawmakers, and the public to challenge transmission projects that do not serve the best interests of Maryland residents.

SB0037 is more than just a transparency measure; it is a tool for stopping unnecessary transmission projects before they gain momentum. By exposing the decision-making process behind projects like the MPRP, Maryland can move toward a better energy future.

**Sincerely,
Dan Lampieri**