



MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

February 12, 2025

Bill: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0232F.pdf>

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony on SB0034—Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity—Overhead Transmission Lines—Conservation Easements

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) strongly supports SB0034. With over 60% of land in the United States in private hands, private property is crucial to preserving wildlife habitat. HB 0034 would require the Public Service Commission to consider alternative routes or to alter proposed routes when they would cross a conservation easement. An applicant must also minimize impact of the transmission line on the easement. We believe that every effort should be made to preserve a conservation easement that a proposed transmission line would impact.

North America has lost almost 30% of its birds since 1970.¹ Habitat destruction is a major source to that decline. SB0034 will preserve habitat and help preserve our bird and wildlife population.

We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report for SB0034, to protect conservation easements and wildlife habitat.

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¹ Rosenberg, Kenneth V. et al, Decline of the North American avifauna, Science, VOL 366, NO. 6451, 19 September 2019,
https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aaw1313?adobe_mc=MCORGID%3D242B6472541199F70A4C98A6%2540AdobeOrg%7CTS%3D1707754028