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Testimony in Support of SB953

To: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
From: Anne Matthews

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

My name is Anne Matthews, and I am a resident of Freeland, Maryland. I am writing to express my support for SB953 Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland, which seeks to establish a plan to meet Maryland's energy needs and places a moratorium on construction of new transmission lines in the state from July 1, 2025 to May 1, 2026.

As a citizen living in the path of the proposed Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP), I can attest to the devastating impacts that new transmission without proper planning and aforethought can cause to people's lives and homes. If the MPRP proceeds, my house will be sandwiched between two sets of high voltage lines. The property already was a victim of eminent domain for a BGE easement. I fear what this means for my property value, the ability of my livestock to graze and live under these lines, and my own physical, mental, and financial well-being.

I understand that we must take action to solve the energy challenges facing Maryland. However, there are better ways than stringing extension cords through people's property at great financial and emotional cost to them only to benefit out of state power generators. SB953 would allow the necessary time to study these challenges and identify reliable and affordable electricity solutions.

I respectfully urge you to support SB953 and advocate for its passage to stop reckless transmission expansion and develop an energy plan that puts the needs of Maryland's citizens first.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your dedication to serving our community and look forward to seeing your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Anne Matthews

