



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

SB 0853 - Public Service Commission - Transmission Line Siting - Limitations

DATE: March 6, 2025
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
POSITION: Favorable

On behalf of the Frederick County community, we urge the committee to give **SB 0853 - Public Service Commission - Transmission Line Siting - Limitations** a favorable report.

Frederick County is one of the three Maryland counties that is directly impacted by the proposed Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project ("MPRP"). Our community has been clear that we oppose the project and are concerned about its impact on residents, natural and historic resources, and our economy and quality of life.

The Public Service Commission ("PSC") is responsible for reviewing project applications and authorizing construction of transmission line projects in the State of Maryland. While the PSC actively considers a variety of factors in these decisions, they are not tasked with requiring a project to use existing transmission rights-of-ways ("ROW"). SB 853 would prohibit the PSC from authorizing a transmission line project that does not use existing ROWs, unless it is proven that the existing ROWs are not sufficient for the proposed transmission line.

The PSC should be utilizing all available options to minimize the impact of transmission line construction on our residents, communities, and environment. State of Maryland and Frederick County Government has invested significant resources towards the preservation of agricultural and conservation areas and the proposed MPRP threatens to undermine those investments and directly harm our constituents in the process. SB 853 would require projects such as MPRP to minimize their impact by utilizing existing ROWs when possible. This requirement would also help mitigate the impact to residents by reducing how many properties are impacted.

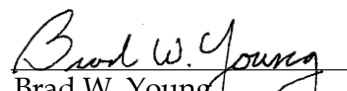
The use of existing rights-of-way for transmission line projects could solve a variety of concerns that counties and residents currently hold in regard to proposed projects like MPRP.


Thank you for your consideration of SB 853 and we urge a favorable report.

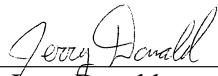
Respectfully,


Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive


Kavonté Duckett
County Council Vice President


Brad W. Young
County Council President

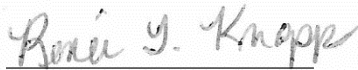

Mason Carter
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