

Testimony in Support of SB 483

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brenda Myers, and I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen, speaking in strong support of SB 483. As a community fighting to protect our farmland, historical landscapes, and rural way of life, this bill ensures that unnecessary and harmful transmission projects—like the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP)—never break ground.

Why SB 483 Matters

Preventing Unnecessary Land Seizure

Under the current regulatory framework, utilities can push for massive transmission projects even when viable alternatives exist. SB 483 forces the Public Service Commission (PSC) to fully evaluate whether transmission expansion is even necessary before approving a new project. This means utilities can no longer justify land seizures when existing infrastructure can be upgraded instead.

Protecting Agricultural and Historical Land

The MPRP and similar projects put farmland, historic sites, and conservation areas at risk. SB 483 recognizes these vital spaces and explicitly requires the PSC to avoid siting new transmission lines in these areas. This is a crucial step toward ensuring that Maryland's rural landscapes and preserved farmland remain protected for generations to come.

Encouraging Smarter Energy Infrastructure

Rather than defaulting to the outdated approach of building more overhead transmission lines, SB 483 promotes modern, efficient solutions such as undergrounding and reconductoring. These approaches not only minimize environmental and community disruption but also improve grid resilience against extreme weather events.

Strengthening Local Authority

By requiring the PSC to consider local zoning and planned growth areas, SB 483 empowers communities to have a greater say in energy infrastructure decisions. Instead of transmission developers dictating the terms, local governments and residents gain leverage to push for better alternatives.

The Dangers of the MPRP and Similar Projects

The Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP), proposed by PJM Interconnection and Potomac Edison, threatens to seize private land, devalue property, and disrupt communities across the state. SB 483 offers a path to stopping this project by ensuring that alternatives are not just an afterthought but a requirement.

If we allow the MPRP to move forward, it will set a dangerous precedent for more unnecessary transmission lines across the state. But if we support and push for the passage of SB 483, we can help shift the regulatory landscape toward a future where smarter, community-first energy planning prevails.

Conclusion: A Future Without Unnecessary Transmission Lines

SB 483 represents a new path forward—one where Maryland prioritizes efficient, community-friendly energy solutions over the profit-driven motives of transmission developers. By supporting this bill, we can protect our land, our homes, and our way of life from unnecessary and harmful energy infrastructure projects.

I respectfully urge this committee to pass SB 483 and ensure that Maryland adopts a more responsible and community-conscious approach to energy transmission.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brenda Myers

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