

HB 121 - SUPPORT
Frances Stewart, MD
Elders Climate Action Maryland
frances.stewart6@gmail.com
301-718-0446

SB0037 – Utility Transparency and Accountability Act

Meeting of the Committee

February 13, 2025

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee, on behalf of Elders Climate Action Maryland, I urge a favorable report on SB0037, the Utility Transparency and Accountability Act.

Elders Climate Action is a nationwide organization devoted to ensuring that our children, grandchildren, and future generations have a world in which they can thrive. The Maryland Chapter has members across the state.

As you know, Maryland is served by the PJM Interconnection. That RTO has a number of problems, including a very long interconnection queue and poor transmission planning. Those problems make it harder for Maryland to decrease fossil fuel use and increase the use of renewable energy. That leads to difficulty in meeting our climate and air pollution reduction goals and increased costs for Maryland ratepayers.

The electric utilities play a large role in PJM's governance, but it is difficult for our Public Service Commission, the Office of People's Counsel, other public officials, and concerned citizens to get the information they need on important votes at PJM. This bill would ameliorate that problem by requiring the investor-owned electric utilities to file an annual report with the Public Service Commission on their votes.

That information will be more and more important in coming years as Maryland deals with increasing electricity demands. We strongly urge a favorable report on SB0037.