

24 March 2025

HB829 - Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies
Position: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chairman Feldman and fellow members of the EEE Committee,

I am writing today to ask for a favorable report for HB829. I represent a group of community members of Kingsville, Franklinville, and Upper Falls, Maryland who are dismayed at the proposed new transmission lines due to the retirement of Brandon Shores Power Plant. These proposed lines run through the densely-wooded Gunpowder Falls State Park and the historic communities of Kingsville, Upper Falls, and Franklinville. The lines are located near protected wildlands filled with endangered species and will continue to deteriorate the esthetics of our small-town, rural neighborhoods. We are located in both Harford and Baltimore Counties and live outside the URDL (Urban-Rural Demarcation Line). As a result, there are no fire hydrants near our homes because we live in between the Little and Big Gunpowder Rivers.

My family has resided in Kingsville for over 6 decades dating back to the mid 1960s. Our property lies adjacent to the Gunpowder Falls State Park. A second set of power lines running directly through our neighborhoods will increase the likelihood of a wildfire exponentially. To decrease this fire risk, we have sought the direct burial of any new transmission lines. Ninety-nine percent of the homes in Kingsville are in [DIRECT EXPOSURE](#) to wildfire risk and may be ignited by vegetation, flying embers, or nearby structures.

Therefore, I ask the committee to consider this important piece of legislation which will require the PSC to examine alternatives to the construction of new transmission lines. **I specifically ask that grid enhancing technologies and the use of advanced conductors be fully pursued BEFORE any new transmission lines are constructed along our corridor.** Our community does not support this expansion because this project will bankrupt residents, destroy our property values, and impact the environment detrimentally. Please consider optimizing the existing transmission infrastructure and leave our communities alone.

One more thing: Please considering amending this bill to become emergency legislation with an immediate effective date so that the PSC will take notice before the Brandon Shores Hearings on April 9th, 10th, and 23rd.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Mark Kukucka
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