



Testimony on: SB0037- Electric Companies – Regional Transmission Organizations – Report (Utility Transparency and Accountability Act)

Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment

Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

Submitting: Lee McNair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 13, 2025

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony in support of SB037. The Maryland Legislative Climate Justice Wing is a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations whose members urge you to vote favorably on SB037.

This bill will provide greater transparency into the decisions made at our grid operator, PJM. An important change this bill will make is to require a public record of all PJM votes cast by each Maryland electric company, which is not a municipal utility, through annual reporting to the Maryland Public Service Commission. Currently, this information is private and neither ratepayers nor the public have any way to determine what their public utility companies are advocating for at PJM.

Generally, it's good to have an independent regional entity overseeing our grid when that oversight results in efficiencies that benefit Maryland consumers. However, decisions made at PJM can significantly impact our utility rates. When those decisions lack transparency and accountability, they can greatly increase costs to ratepayers; fail to increase our grid's modernization and efficiency; slow our transition to clean energy; and causing us to fail to reach our mandated state climate goals.

A public record of all PJM votes by public utilities will greatly increase accountability through transparency allowing the state, the ratepayers, and the public better understanding of PJM's decisions and our public utility processes, which in turn will likely improve those processes and increase our grid efficiencies.

SB037 will provide this much needed transparency and regulatory guardrails to protect Maryland ratepayers while also ensuring that our utilities are helping rather than impeding Maryland's energy and climate goals.

For these reasons we strongly support SB037 and urge a FAVORABLE report in committee.

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Adat Shalom Climate Action

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Climate Parents of Prince George's

Climate Reality Project

ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition

Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

Echotopia

Elders Climate Action

Fix Maryland Rail

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

Greenbelt Climate Action Network

HoCoClimateAction

IndivisibleHoCoMD

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Mobilize Frederick

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Mountain Maryland Movement

Nuclear Information & Resource Service

Progressive Maryland

Safe & Healthy Playing Fields

Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

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