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March 4, 2025

**Testimony in support of SB955 - Overhead Transmission Lines - Eminent Domain**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
From: Elizabeth (“Betsy”) and Michael McFarland

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

We are residents of Adamstown, Maryland, and we write to express our strong **support for SB955 - Overhead Transmission Lines - Eminent Domain**. This bill seeks to strengthen property rights protections and restrict eminent domain abuses.

As long-time Maryland residents and homeowners in Frederick County, our property lies directly in the path of the proposed Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP), which is currently before the Maryland Public Service Commission. PSEG has made it clear—through their filings and public statements—that they intend to use eminent domain to seize our land. To protect our property from being unjustly taken and destroyed, we have filed a petition to intervene at the Maryland PSC.

While our land is not currently under a conservation easement, it is located within the Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Area and Carroll Manor Rural Legacy Area—both designated for their ecological and historical significance. Our property is also classified as a FEMA Flood Zone A, Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) habitat, and a Targeted Ecological Area (TEA).

Allowing eminent domain to be used against conservation easements and environmentally sensitive lands is not only unjust but also counterproductive to Maryland’s long-standing environmental and conservation goals.

We urge your support for SB955 to ensure that Maryland’s natural landscapes, private property rights, and conservation efforts are protected from unnecessary and irreversible destruction.  
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Betsy and Michael McFarland