



TESTIMONY FOR SB0853

Public Service Commission - Transmission Line Siting - Limitations

Bill Sponsor: Senator Lewis-Young

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0853 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members respect the need of the utilities in the state to build more transmission lines to service a growing data center expansion in the state. We already have a network of transmission lines across the state, but the utilities are trying to put new lines in places that have never had transmission lines before, which has alarmed the residents in the areas where they look to expand their networks.

This bill injects some common-sense into this process. It prohibits the Public Service from approving construction of a new overhead transmission line outside of an existing transmission line right of way unless there is adequate evidence that the existing transmission line rights of way are not sufficient for the new transmission line.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.