



FAVORABLE

Natural Resources – Wildland Areas – Overhead Transmission Lines
Senate Bill 399
Before The Education, Energy and Environment Committee

February 11, 2025

Mr. Chairman, Madame Vice Chair and Members of the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Senate Bill 399. I am here today with my colleagues, Kaitlin McCormick and Brad Rolfes, representing NextEra Energy Transmission MidAtlantic (“NEETMA”). NextEra Energy Transmission, LLC, (“NEET”) a subsidiary of NextEra Energy, Inc., is the leading competitive electric transmission company in North America. NEET develops, finances, constructs, operates and maintains transmission assets across North America. We currently have 10 operating projects across North America with a total capex of \$3.3 billion.

NEETMA is currently in the process of developing the MidAtlantic Resiliency Link (“MARL”) transmission line. The project consists of building a new approximately 105-mile 500 kV transmission line from Fredrick County, Virginia to Greene County, Pennsylvania including a section in Allegany and Garrett Counties in Maryland. The line was selected by the regional electric grid operator, called PJM, to ensure that the region has reliable electric power for decades to come and is part of a broader initiative to enhance PJM’s electric grid. The project will help serve the region’s electricity demand and will help keep the power on during extreme weather events.

Approval by the General Assembly is required to exempt or withdraw any property from a Maryland designated Wildlands area. Senate Bill 399 proposes the exemption of a small portion of land to allow for the MARL line to route adjacent to an existing transmission line owned and operated by FirstEnergy which also routes through Wildlands. While we believe this routing option provides the least impact to the region, we are actively performing a routing study and taking feedback from local stakeholders as we make these routing decisions. Senate Bill 399 provides the option to route adjacent to the existing transmission infrastructure in the area.

The ultimate siting power of the transmission line sits with the Public Service Commission (PSC) during the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process. The passage of Senate Bill 399 does not approve the MARL transmission line or any other transmission line in Maryland. It simply allows for the exemption of a small portion of Wildlands to provide an option for the MARL line to route in an efficient manner. If NEETMA determines that an alternative route is preferred after receiving additional stakeholder feedback or the PSC directs NEETMA to adopt an alternative route, MARL will not cross the Wildlands and the designation on the land will remain.

While we are in the initial stages of project development, our team has held over 50 meetings with stakeholders in Maryland to seek their feedback. We will also be hosting public meetings to obtain additional feedback on the potential routing alternatives. The project will generate an estimated \$450 million to be paid

and benefit the local communities in Maryland over the 40-year life of the project. The project will provide reliable electricity for hospitals, fire departments and other essential services. We look forward to being a community partner and successfully completing this project.

I welcome any questions or comments at this time.

Thank you,

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