



**HoCoClimateAction.org**  
Howard County, Maryland

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

**Hearing Date: February 13, 2025**

**Bill Sponsor: Senator Hester**

**Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment**

**Submitting: Liz Feighner for HoCo Climate Action**

**Position: Favorable**

[HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. It is also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#).

We urge you to **vote favorably on SB0037** which addresses the lack of transparency on policy positions investor-owned utility companies take at our regional transmission organization (RTO) known as PJM. This bill requires investor-owned utility companies and any of its affiliates to submit an annual report to the Public Service Commission regarding each recorded vote cast at a meeting of PJM.

HoCo Climate Action has been advocating for clean, renewable energy for years along with [advocating for decarbonizing buildings since October 2020](#). We are extremely concerned about the lack of transparency for electrical grid policy decisions made by PJM. While decisions made at PJM significantly affect rates and our state's ability to meet our climate goals, the decision making process is not transparent and votes by utilities are not public.

Transparency is good governance and does not cost much to utilities or the state. Requiring public disclosures of policy decisions made by utilities at the PJM is in the rate payers best interest. For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report for **SB0037**.

Howard County Climate Action

Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee

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