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Testimony in Support of

SB953: Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland

I am writing to express my strong support for SB953. My husband and I and our family have lived in rural Maryland for many years and own land here – not much, but we have a garden and trees. My husband has lived in Maryland most of his life; the open spaces and beauty of the Catocin Mountains were touchstones of safety and connection for him. I see the natural beauty of the land and many layers of vegetation as a wellspring of healthy life. I have been a healthcare worker – an ICU nurse then an acupuncturist - most of my days. I believe preserving our forests, wetlands and farms can go a long way in maintaining the health and quality of life for Marylanders. That is why I believe this bill can help explore ways to sustainably meet energy needs along with preserving our vital natural systems, including water. It would place a moratorium on new transmission projects and form a task force for realistic energy planning.

A recent study from Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability finds that electricity demand can be met through grid flexibility solutions—without building new high-voltage transmission lines like the proposed Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP). <https://nicholasinstitute.duke.edu/articles/three-key-takeaways-rethinking-load-growth-us-power-systems>.

The old cliché “is the juice worth the squeeze” comes into play here. Paul Krugman, the Nobel Laureate in economics recently wrote about an interview with Jim Chanos, the American investment manager. Mr. Chanos likened the proliferation of data centers as a mirage of extraction. He stated that the run up to massive investment in data centers may prove to yield less value in real terms. <https://paulkrugman.substack.com/p/why-ai-spending-reminds-jim-chanos>

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 953 to protect Maryland's lands and ecosystems along with balancing energy needs.

Thank you so much for your attention. It is really a privilege to be able to voice my opinions to my representatives; and I value and honor your work.

Please vote in favor of SB 953