

Mary Patton  
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Mount Airy, MD  
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March 4, 2025

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB0853 – Public Service Commission – Transmission Line Siting -  
Limitations**

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

My name is Mary Patton and I am a resident of Mount Airy, MD. I am writing to express FAVORABLE support for SB0853. I am a community advocate, parent, and resident that has the potential to be impacted by the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project. Bills such as SB0853 will help protect communities by prohibiting new overhead transmission lines unless an applicant proves that existing rights-of-way are insufficient.

Transmission lines that do not prioritize existing rights-of-way or consider alternative technologies dangerously damage farmland, lower property values, and ignore better alternatives. This bill will prioritize the use of existing rights-of-way rather than allowing reckless expansion of transmission infrastructure into protected lands. This bill is not about limiting progress, rather, it strives to achieve smarter progress by using more responsible methods that optimize existing transmission lines, consider grid-enhancing technologies or distributed energy generation.

I ask you to support this bill and find a smarter path forward for Maryland by prioritizing a smarter approach to energy solutions that respect communities, farms and conservation land rather than treating them as disposable in the pursuit of energy expansion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Patton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Patton