



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Bill No.: Senate Bill 947 – The Maryland Co-Location Energy Innovation and Reliability Act

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Sponsors: Senators Ready and West

Hearing Date: March 6, 2025

Position: Favorable

I write to express strong support for Senate Bill 947 (SB 947), the Maryland Co-Location Energy Innovation and Reliability Act, and urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on this important legislation. SB 947 represents a forward-thinking solution to Maryland's energy challenges, ensuring that data centers generate their own power on-site rather than burdening the state's electric grid and leading to unnecessary high-voltage transmission line expansion.

The Threat of Unchecked Transmission Expansion

Maryland is at risk of following Virginia's short-sighted approach to data center development, which has led to an explosion of high-voltage transmission lines crisscrossing communities, consuming farmland, and disrupting the environment and rural economies. Without proactive legislation, data centers in Maryland will drive demand for massive new transmission infrastructure, forcing landowners to sacrifice their property while ratepayers absorb the financial burden.

SB 947: A Smarter Approach to Powering Data Centers

SB 947 provides a targeted regulatory framework for the co-location of data centers and power generation, ensuring that:

- Data centers generate their own electricity on-site, rather than relying on long-distance transmission.
- Maryland's energy grid remains stable and reliable by keeping these massive loads separate from transmission and distribution systems.
- Critical cybersecurity protections are implemented to prevent potential threats from centralized power dependencies.
- State-mandated electric distribution fees and renewable portfolio obligations do not apply, recognizing that these facilities are independent power generators.



Key Benefits of SB 947

- **Protecting Maryland's Landscapes:** Prevents the need for new transmission lines that would destroy farmland, forests, and conservation lands.
- **Reducing Energy Costs for Ratepayers:** Stops utility companies from shifting transmission expansion costs onto Maryland families and businesses.
- **Enhancing Grid Reliability:** Ensures Maryland's existing energy infrastructure is not overloaded by energy-intensive data center growth.
- **Safeguarding Agricultural and Rural Communities:** Preserves the state's agricultural economy, preventing land loss and displacement.
- **Encouraging Energy Innovation:** Fosters the use of localized, high-efficiency power generation instead of inefficient long-distance transmission.

Maryland Must Act Now

If Maryland fails to act, PJM Interconnection and major utilities will dictate the state's energy future, prioritizing profit-driven transmission projects over community interests. SB 947 offers a critical safeguard against this by ensuring that data centers bear the responsibility for their energy consumption without offloading costs onto ratepayers or taking land for transmission infrastructure.

This bill represents a balanced solution: It allows Maryland to support high-tech economic growth while protecting landowners, the environment, and the integrity of our energy grid.

Conclusion

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 947. The future of Maryland's energy security, economic sustainability, and environmental integrity depends on policies that prioritize smart, local energy solutions over unnecessary and costly transmission expansion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Frederick

President

Stop MPRP, Inc.

joanne.frederick@stopmprp.org

443.789.1382