



Senate Bill 483

Public Utilities—Alternatives to Construction of New Transmission Lines

Position: **FAV**

Date: **March 6, 2025**

To: **Economic Matters**

On behalf of the Caroline County Commissioners, we wish to express our **strong support** for **Senate Bill 483—Public Utilities—Alternatives to Construction of New Transmission Lines**, which provides a common-sense approach to evaluating new transmission line projects by requiring the Public Service Commission (PSC) to thoroughly consider alternatives before approving new construction. This bill is essential for protecting rural communities, preserving farmland, and ensuring that energy infrastructure aligns with local planning priorities.

Caroline County is a predominantly rural area where new transmission lines can have significant impacts on agricultural land, historic sites, and planned residential development. Under current law, these projects can move forward without fully considering existing rights-of-way, upgrades to current infrastructure, or undergrounding—all of which could reduce disruption to our communities. SB 483 ensures that these alternatives are carefully evaluated so that necessary infrastructure improvements are made in the least disruptive and most cost-effective way possible.

Furthermore, this bill ensures that transmission projects do not conflict with county comprehensive plans or encroach on designated growth areas. By prioritizing existing infrastructure and requiring consideration of undergrounding where feasible, SB 483 supports both economic development and land preservation efforts in Caroline County.

We appreciate your leadership in ensuring that local governments and residents have a voice in utility planning decisions. We urge your support for SB 483 and look forward to working together to ensure responsible infrastructure development in Maryland.

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding, President