

Testimony in Support of SB 953

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brenda Myers, and I am writing today to voice my strong support for Senate Bill 953 (SB 953), a critical piece of legislation that will ensure a reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity future for Maryland. This bill establishes the Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland while implementing a temporary moratorium on new transmission line expansion. SB 953 is essential to safeguarding Maryland's energy independence and protecting consumers from rising electricity costs.

1. Maryland's Energy Dependence Is Costing Consumers

Currently, Maryland imports a significant portion of its electricity from other states through PJM Interconnection, the regional transmission organization that oversees the electric grid. This dependence on out-of-state power has serious consequences:

- **Higher electricity prices** – Maryland ratepayers are subject to volatile wholesale energy prices and increasing capacity market costs. As demand grows and regional supply tightens, Marylanders will face even steeper energy bills.
- **Reliability risks** – With limited in-state generation, Maryland's grid is vulnerable to disruptions in other states. If neighboring regions experience energy shortages, Maryland may struggle to secure adequate power.
- **Economic disadvantages** – Relying on imported electricity means sending jobs and economic benefits out of state instead of fostering local energy production and workforce growth.

2. A Task Force to Chart a Realistic Path Forward

SB 953 creates the Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland, bringing together state agencies, energy experts, utility companies, environmental groups, and ratepayer advocates. This task force will study Maryland's electricity needs for 2026, 2030, 2035, and 2040, providing crucial legislative recommendations to:

Reduce Maryland's dependence on imported electricity to no more than 25% by 2040.

Encourage in-state energy generation by expanding nuclear power, renewable energy, and energy storage solutions.

Modernize Maryland's existing transmission and distribution system to improve efficiency instead of overbuilding costly new transmission lines.

Ensure energy affordability by analyzing realistic cost projections for consumers under different energy policy scenarios.

This initiative will help Maryland move away from its reliance on imported energy and toward a self-sustaining, resilient power grid that benefits consumers and businesses alike.

3. Preventing Costly and Unnecessary Transmission Projects

One of the most critical provisions in SB 953 is the temporary moratorium on new transmission line construction from **July 1, 2025, to May 1, 2026**. This measure is necessary because:

- **Maryland needs to optimize existing infrastructure** instead of rubber-stamping expensive new transmission projects that primarily benefit out-of-state power generators.
- **New transmission lines often lead to land seizures through eminent domain**, harming farmers, landowners, and conservation efforts.
- **Expanding long-distance transmission does not solve Maryland's energy problem**—it only reinforces dependence on external generation instead of investing in localized, resilient energy solutions.

Maryland must take the time to develop a long-term plan rather than rush into expensive infrastructure projects that may not be in the best interest of residents and businesses.

The Time to Act Is Now

SB 953 is not just another energy bill—it is a defining moment for Maryland's energy future. If we fail to act, we risk:

Higher energy costs for consumers.

Continued overreliance on out-of-state power.

Weakening local energy security and reliability.

Disrupting communities and farmland with unnecessary transmission expansion

By passing SB 953, Maryland lawmakers can put the brakes on reckless transmission expansion and take the time needed to craft a long-term energy strategy that prioritizes **affordability, sustainability, and resilience**.

I urge this committee to support SB 953 and ensure that Maryland takes a responsible, forward-thinking approach to its energy future. Maryland needs to act NOW. Please lead the way!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brenda Myers

Hampstead, Maryland