

**February 11, 2025**

**Senator Brooks:**

**SB 0034 Preserves Protected Land and Conservation easements from unnecessary development. Allowing transmission projects to override these protections undermines their purpose and threatens agriculture, biodiversity, and local ecosystems.**

**This bill ensures accountability from Utility Companies**

**Without this bill, transmission developers can ignore better alternatives and push projects forward at the expense of landowners and communities. By requiring companies to evaluate alternative routes, SB34 introduces much-needed oversight.**

**SB 0034 Supports Smart Energy Planning**

**Rather than continuing the outdated model of long-distance transmission, Maryland should focus on modern energy solutions such as:**

- **Upgrading existing infrastructure**
- **Distributed energy resources (DERs)**
- **Siting transmission lines along existing corridors (such as highways and railways)**
- **Undergrounding where feasible for resilience and safety**

**SB 0034 Protects Rural Communities**

**Rural landowners often bear the brunt of large transmission projects, with little say in the process. SB34 levels the playing field by requiring due consideration of conservation land, preventing landowners from being steamrolled by corporate energy interests.**

**This bill protects landowners from unfair land seizures and ensure they receive full compensation if eminent domain is used.**

**Sincerely,  
Dan Iampieri**