

## **Testimony in Support of SB 952**

**Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Brenda Myers, and I am here today to strongly support Senate Bill 952 (SB 952), a forward-thinking legislative measure that prioritizes efficiency, modernization, and cost savings in Maryland's electricity transmission system. As our state faces growing electricity demands and an aging grid, SB 952 ensures that we adopt innovative solutions rather than defaulting to expensive and disruptive new transmission projects.

SB 952 amends Maryland's Public Utilities law by requiring the Public Service Commission (PSC) to consider the implementation of Grid-Enhancing Technologies (GETs) before approving any new overhead transmission lines. This means that before utilities are allowed to construct costly and land-consuming infrastructure, the PSC must evaluate whether existing power lines can be modernized with advanced technology to meet the same needs.

By mandating a technology-first approach, SB 952 ensures that Maryland's energy system is enhanced intelligently and responsibly, avoiding unnecessary land-use conflicts and excessive spending.

GETs are cutting-edge innovations that improve the capacity, efficiency, reliability, and resilience of existing transmission systems. Some key technologies included in SB 952 are:

**High-Performance Conductors** – Upgraded power lines that carry more electricity without requiring new transmission routes.

**Storage as Transmission** – Energy storage solutions that balance supply and demand, reducing the need for additional lines.

**Dynamic Line Ratings** – Real-time monitoring systems that optimize power flow, improving grid efficiency.

By incorporating these technologies, Maryland can maximize the use of its existing transmission infrastructure, reducing both costs and environmental impacts.

For too long, Maryland's default approach to grid reliability has been to build more transmission lines—often at the expense of farmland, conservation areas, and residential communities. This outdated method leads to land-use conflicts, property devaluation, and ecological harm, all while burdening ratepayers with excessive costs. SB 952 represents a necessary shift toward smarter, more efficient grid management.

If enacted, this bill will:

**Save Ratepayers Money** – Upgrading existing infrastructure with GETs is often significantly cheaper than constructing new transmission lines, leading to lower electricity costs for consumers.

**Protect Landowners and Natural Resources** – By reducing the need for new transmission corridors, SB 952 safeguards agricultural land, forests, and residential areas from unnecessary encroachment and eminent domain claims.

**Enhance Grid Reliability and Efficiency** – Advanced transmission technologies improve power capacity, reduce congestion, and increase resilience, ensuring a more reliable energy system for Maryland without waiting years for new infrastructure to be built.

## **A Smarter Energy Future**

If passed, SB 952 would fundamentally reshape how Maryland evaluates transmission projects. Utilities and regulators will be required to prioritize efficiency and modernization before resorting to new construction, signaling a broader shift toward innovation-driven energy policy that values optimization over expansion.

For Maryland residents, particularly those in rural and suburban communities, this bill means greater protection from large-scale transmission projects that threaten property rights and environmental integrity. It also provides a pathway for Maryland to lead in energy innovation by embracing smarter, more cost-effective solutions.

SB 952 is a common-sense solution that embraces modern technology to meet Maryland's electricity needs without unnecessary land grabs or excessive spending. As our energy transition accelerates, we must ensure that efficiency and innovation drive policy decisions—not outdated habits of expanding transmission infrastructure when better solutions exist.

Maryland's legislators have a chance to lead the way in transmission modernization by passing SB 952. I urge this committee to support this bill and help pave the way for a smarter, more sustainable energy future.

Thank you for your time and consideration, please lead Maryland to lead the way forward!

Brenda Myers

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