



## Maryland Farm Bureau

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**To:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**RE: Support – SB483 – Public Utilities - Alternatives to Construction of New Transmission Lines**

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau and our agricultural community, I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 483, which expands the Public Service Commission's examination of alternatives to the construction of new transmission lines. This bill is of particular importance to Maryland's farming families, as it prioritizes the preservation of historical, environmental, and agricultural lands when considering energy infrastructure projects.

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of Maryland's economy, culture, and way of life. Farmland is a finite and irreplaceable resource, and encroachments by new transmission lines pose significant threats to both productivity and long-term sustainability. By requiring the consideration of alternatives—such as the use of existing transmission lines, existing rights-of-way, reconductoring, and undergrounding—this legislation ensures that Maryland's agricultural lands are protected from unnecessary disruption.

The provisions outlined in SB 483 align with our mission to safeguard Maryland's rural landscapes while supporting responsible infrastructure development. Preserving farmland is not only critical for food production but also for environmental stewardship, open space conservation, and the economic viability of family-owned farms. We believe that prioritizing alternative solutions to transmission line construction is a balanced approach that benefits both our agricultural communities and the broader public.

We commend the bill sponsors for their leadership on this issue and urge the General Assembly to pass SB 483. The Maryland Farm Bureau appreciates your consideration of this important legislation, and we stand ready to work alongside policymakers to ensure its successful implementation.

Tyler Hough  
Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough, [though@marylandfb.org](mailto:though@marylandfb.org), with any questions