

HB829 - Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Chair Feldman and fellow members of the EEE Committee,

I write today to ask for a favorable report for HB829. I represent community members of Kingsville, Franklinville, and Upper Falls, Maryland who are dismayed at the proposed new transmission lines due to the retirement of Brandon Shores Power Plant. These proposed lines run through the densely-wooded Gunpowder Falls State Park and the historic communities of Kingsville, Upper Falls, and Franklinville. **These communities are filled with historic homes** listed on the Baltimore County and State registries. **The lines are located near protected wildlands** filled with endangered species and will **continue to deteriorate the esthetics of our small-town, rural neighborhoods**. We are located in both Harford and Baltimore Counties and live outside the URDL (Urban-Rural Demarcation Line). As a result, there are no fire hydrants near our homes because we live in between the Little and Big Gunpowder Rivers.

My family owns Jubilee which is a historic home in Kingsville built in 1771. Our property lies adjacent to the Gunpowder Falls State Park. A second set of power lines running directly through our neighborhoods will increase the likelihood of a wildfire exponentially. **Kingsville, MD cannot become the next Paradise, CA.** In fact, the state of California has been moving towards [undergrounding their power lines](#) after the devastating wildfires. 99% of homes in Kingsville are in [DIRECT EXPOSURE](#) to wildfire risk and may be ignited by vegetation, flying embers, or nearby structures.

I ask the committee to consider this important piece of legislation which will require the PSC to examine alternatives to the construction of new transmission lines. Our community does not support this expansion because **this project will bankrupt residents, destroy our property values, and impact the environment detrimentally**. Finally, the impact on families already struggling with inflation and rising costs (most especially utility rates) is unconscionable. Once these lines are installed, there is no turning back for our electric bills. Please consider optimizing the existing transmission infrastructure and leave our communities alone.

Suggested Amendment: Amend this bill to become emergency legislation with an immediate effective date so that the PSC will take notice before the Brandon Shores Hearings on April 9th, 10th, and 23rd.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Ullmann, District 7A, Kingsville