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**Testimony in support of SB953** - Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
From: Elizabeth (“Betsy”) and Michael McFarland

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

We are residents of Adamstown, Maryland. We are writing to express our strong **support for SB953** - Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland. This bill seeks to establish a task force to develop a comprehensive electricity plan while temporarily halting the approval of new transmission lines to ensure infrastructure investments align with the best interests of Maryland residents and businesses.

As long-time Maryland residents and homeowners in Frederick County, our property lies directly in the path of the proposed Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP), currently before the Maryland Public Service Commission. We are experiencing firsthand the devastating impacts that poorly planned electricity projects can have on our communities.

The MPRP would have a severe impact on our home, property, and investment. The proposed transmission line route is adjacent to our home, with the easement beginning just 55 feet from our residence. This threatens to devalue our home, create noise and safety hazards, and permanently alter the natural landscape of our property. Our land is part of the Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Area and Carroll Manor Rural Legacy Area, with Bennett Creek—a cold-water tributary—flowing through it. The area is also designated as a FEMA Flood Zone A, Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) habitat, and a Targeted Ecological Area (TEA), as noted in PSEG’s application. The proposed deforestation and

construction will have lasting, negative impacts on local wildlife, waterways, and the surrounding ecosystem.

PSEG has made it clear that they will use eminent domain to take our land. Not only would we suffer land loss, financial devastation, and destruction of critical natural resources, but Maryland residents—including those far from the project area—will also pay higher electricity rates to fund this unnecessary destruction.

**Maryland must do better. We cannot allow out-of-state corporations to dictate our energy future simply because we have not adequately planned for our own energy needs.**

We respectfully urge you to support SB953 and advocate for its passage to ensure Maryland creates a strategic, locally focused energy plan that prioritizes affordable, reliable, and sustainable electricity—without sacrificing our homes, communities, and environment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Betsy and Michael McFarland