

Mary Patton
5772 Catocin Vista Dr
Mount Airy, MD
February 7, 2025

Re: Testimony Against SB0399 – Natural Resources – Wildland Areas – Overhead Transmission Lines

Dear Senator McKay:

I am writing to express UNFAVORABLE support for SB0399. I am a community advocate, parent, and resident that has the potential to be impacted by the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project. I also am an environmental scientist who has studied the value our natural ecosystems provide.

Overhead transmission lines have no place in protected wildlands, which are becoming increasingly fragmented, smaller, and impacted by development. By removing wildland protections, SB0399 will undermine decades of conservation efforts. Maryland's wildlands exist to ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefits of untouched natural areas. Further, as we have seen with the recent tragedy of California wildfires, transmission lines near natural areas can create a recipe for disaster. As an alternative, burying transmission lines or optimizing existing infrastructure should be prioritized over continuing to degrade our environment.

I implore you to oppose this bill and prevent a dangerous precedent from being set that could impact wildlife protections on many levels.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Patton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Patton