

Mary Patton  
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Mount Airy, MD  
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March 4, 2025

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB0947 – Maryland Co-Location Energy Innovation and Reliability Act**

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

My name is Mary Patton and I am a resident of Mount Airy, MD. I am writing to express FAVORABLE support for SB0947. I am a community advocate, parent, and resident that has the potential to be impacted by the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project. Bills such as SB0947 will help protect communities from similar projects by requiring on-site power generation.

This bill just makes good sense by supporting localized energy generation that does not interconnect with Maryland's electric grid. This essentially eliminates the need for new transmission infrastructure while ensuring reliability by avoiding overloading Maryland's power grid with massive new data center demand. Further, long-distance transmission lines require deforestation, land excavation, and wildlife habitat destruction. By requiring on-site power generation environmental impact will be significantly reduced and our increasingly limited farmland and open spaces are preserved.

On-site power generation is a clear alternative to the transmission-heavy approach that has overwhelmed states like Virginia. I ask you to support this bill and find a smarter path forward for Maryland by prioritizing community interests, environmental responsibility and economic sustainability.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Patton", with a stylized, cursive script.

Mary Patton