



SB0037

**Electric Companies - Regional Transmission Organizations - Report
(Utility Transparency and Accountability Act)**

Testimony before Education, Energy, and the Environment

Hearing February 13, 2025

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Co-Chair Kagan, and members of the committee, my name is Virginia Smith, and I represent the 900+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of SB0037**, which require electric company, other than a municipal electric utility, by February 1 each year, to submit a report to the Public Service Commission regarding each recorded vote cast by the electric company and any of its affiliates at a meeting of a regional transmission organization (RTO). We thank Senator Hester for her sponsoring of this bill.

Currently, the votes cast by RTOs and their affiliates are kept private from the general public. This lack of transparency means that consumers have no idea if the votes being cast will cause their power bills to increase or limit that State's ability to meet our climate goals. Providing more transparency is only a positive move because it gives consumers the information they need to advocate for themselves and their communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Virginia Smith
Columbia, MD 21044