

Dear Senator Feldman:

Very strange maneuvering. After listening to Sen. McKay's 1:56 minute long "transparent" take on Facebook I have my antennae up. Here's why.

First of all, this is connected to similar requests in other states, like Va, according to the *Bay Journal Account* I just read. The article did not mention the possibility of upgrading the voltage/power of the existing line to meet the greater energy needs. Why not? Another commentator on the article suggested power sources closer to the driver of the need, the data centers located in rural Virginia, and, as I understand it in newly designated centers in Maryland.

Of course in the America of the corporate Democratic Party, that would be in Maryland and the world of Joe Biden, as well as the Republican Party beholden to corporate America as well, there is no such thing as public planning even when the subject matter begs for it, as I consistently complained about with the massive Biden lures to companies for alternative energy, but no new body to address the clearly begging upgrade to the power grid. There could be such a thing as democratic planning, but why would the oligarchs allow it, since it would mean greens and other average citizens having a voice in the future shape of the country and countryside.

Which leads me to this: why in the coy and I think obscure language of Senator McKay, go to all that trouble of mapping the areas now in the Wildlands system - which takes up the bulk of the 9 page bill, to cut out 10-15 feet alongside an existing energy right of way, when an upgrade to carry greater power would be the logical and most environmentally protective proposal?

Around me in Frostburg, unprotected forests are cut frequently, even the City's own Watershed lands at Piney Reservoir, and there is no replacement requirement in Western Maryland, not even the weak law passed in the rest of the state. Some of the cutting it is said, is justified to balance the budget (timber sales to mills in WVA) and some of it maybe, we don't know because of the silence around the cuttings, to please future tenants in the Frostburg Business Park (where even the neighboring businesses are not notified of the clear cuts 50' away - why and for who, no postings).

I'm disappointed in all the parties, and please note in Senator McKay's bill the coy pitch to hunters about the management of the successional growth...a pitch which is part a broad national movement to justify cutting mature forests in the hope of better selected bird species especially the woodcock. I've seen this playbook before, running rampant in NJ forests and wildlife areas to improve the fiscal budgets of the agencies.

Here is a scientific critique of the rationales around this ersatz "public" policy: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/forests-and-global-change/articles/10.3389/ffgc.2022.1073677/full>

In this era of "All Power to the Private Sector" I'm still waiting for more information about why this bill is necessary, and why the nation and the state's energy needs and future are handled in such a helter-skelter fashion, with the dominant players the private power companies, the new Techno-Feudal oligarchs (that was Yanis Varoufakis' phrase and book title) driving the need for more power, and the private oriented PJM which functions as a private sector legislator where the average, non power generating citizen has no voice.

In sadness for the former Republic,

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