SB953 WrittenTestimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Anne Matthews
Position: FAV

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March 4, 2025

Testimony in Support of SB953

To: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
From: Anne Matthews

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

My name is Anne Matthews, and I am a resident of Freeland, Maryland. I am writing to express my support for SB953 Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland, which seeks to establish a plan to meet Maryland's energy needs and places a moratorium on construction of new transmission lines in the state from July 1, 2025 to May 1, 2026.

As a citizen living in the path of the proposed Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP), I can attest to the devastating impacts that new transmission without proper planning and aforethought can cause to people's lives and homes. If the MPRP proceeds, my house will be sandwiched between two sets of high voltage lines. The property already was a victim of eminent domain for a BGE easement. I fear what this means for my property value, the ability of my livestock to graze and live under these lines, and my own physical, mental, and financial well-being.

I understand that we must take action to solve the energy challenges facing Maryland. However, there are better ways then stringing extension cords through people's property at great financial and emotional cost to them only to benefit out of state power generators. SB953 would allow the necessary time to study these challenges and identify reliable and affordable electricity solutions.

I respectfully urge you to support SB953 and advocate for its passage to stop reckless transmission expansion and develop an energy plan that puts the needs of Maryland's citizens first.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your dedication to serving our community and look forward to seeing your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Anne Matthews

Testimony in Support of SB 953.pdf
Uploaded by: Brenda Myers
Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of SB 953

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brenda Myers, and I am writing today to voice my strong support for Senate Bill 953 (SB 953), a critical piece of legislation that will ensure a reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity future for Maryland. This bill establishes the Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland while implementing a temporary moratorium on new transmission line expansion. SB 953 is essential to safeguarding Maryland's energy independence and protecting consumers from rising electricity costs.

1. Maryland's Energy Dependence Is Costing Consumers

Currently, Maryland imports a significant portion of its electricity from other states through PJM Interconnection, the regional transmission organization that oversees the electric grid. This dependence on out-of-state power has serious consequences:

- **Higher electricity prices** – Maryland ratepayers are subject to volatile wholesale energy prices and increasing capacity market costs. As demand grows and regional supply tightens, Marylanders will face even steeper energy bills.
- **Reliability risks** – With limited in-state generation, Maryland's grid is vulnerable to disruptions in other states. If neighboring regions experience energy shortages, Maryland may struggle to secure adequate power.
- **Economic disadvantages** – Relying on imported electricity means sending jobs and economic benefits out of state instead of fostering local energy production and workforce growth.

2. A Task Force to Chart a Realistic Path Forward

SB 953 creates the Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland, bringing together state agencies, energy experts, utility companies, environmental groups, and ratepayer advocates. This task force will study Maryland's electricity needs for 2026, 2030, 2035, and 2040, providing crucial legislative recommendations to:

Reduce Maryland's dependence on imported electricity to no more than 25% by 2040.

Encourage in-state energy generation by expanding nuclear power, renewable energy, and energy storage solutions.

Modernize Maryland's existing transmission and distribution system to improve efficiency instead of overbuilding costly new transmission lines.

Ensure energy affordability by analyzing realistic cost projections for consumers under different energy policy scenarios.

This initiative will help Maryland move away from its reliance on imported energy and toward a self-sustaining, resilient power grid that benefits consumers and businesses alike.

3. Preventing Costly and Unnecessary Transmission Projects

One of the most critical provisions in SB 953 is the temporary moratorium on new transmission line construction from **July 1, 2025, to May 1, 2026**. This measure is necessary because:

- **Maryland needs to optimize existing infrastructure** instead of rubber-stamping expensive new transmission projects that primarily benefit out-of-state power generators.
- **New transmission lines often lead to land seizures through eminent domain,** harming farmers, landowners, and conservation efforts.
- **Expanding long-distance transmission does not solve Maryland's energy problem**—it only reinforces dependence on external generation instead of investing in localized, resilient energy solutions.

Maryland must take the time to develop a long-term plan rather than rush into expensive infrastructure projects that may not be in the best interest of residents and businesses.

The Time to Act Is Now

SB 953 is not just another energy bill—it is a defining moment for Maryland's energy future. If we fail to act, we risk:

Higher energy costs for consumers.

Continued overreliance on out-of-state power.

Weakening local energy security and reliability.

Disrupting communities and farmland with unnecessary transmission expansion

By passing SB 953, Maryland lawmakers can put the brakes on reckless transmission expansion and take the time needed to craft a long-term energy strategy that prioritizes **affordability, sustainability, and resilience.**

I urge this committee to support SB 953 and ensure that Maryland takes a responsible, forward-thinking approach to its energy future. Maryland needs to act NOW. Please lead the way!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brenda Myers

Hampstead, Maryland

SB 953 Price.pdf
Uploaded by: Brysn Price
Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of SB 953

Presented by Bryan Price

Maryland State Senate Hearing on SB 953

Chair, Vice Chair, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 953 (SB 953). My name is Bryan Price, and I am a Maryland resident committed to ensuring that our state's energy policies prioritize affordability, reliability, and sustainability while safeguarding Maryland's communities from unnecessary and destructive transmission expansion. SB 953 is a critical step toward achieving these goals by establishing a Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland and implementing a temporary moratorium on new transmission line construction.

Maryland's increasing dependence on out-of-state electricity has placed an unfair financial burden on its residents. As part of PJM Interconnection, Maryland imports a significant portion of its energy, making ratepayers vulnerable to volatile wholesale energy prices, rising capacity market costs, and economic disadvantages that send jobs and investment dollars to other states instead of fostering local energy generation. SB 953 is essential to ensuring that Maryland transitions toward energy independence rather than doubling down on costly and inefficient transmission expansion.

This bill creates a Task Force to study Maryland's electricity needs for 2026, 2030, 2035, and 2040, charting a path toward reducing our dependence on imported electricity to no more than 25% by 2040. The task force will assess strategies such as increasing in-state energy production through expanded nuclear power, renewable energy, and energy storage solutions while modernizing the existing transmission and distribution system to improve efficiency rather than building new, costly lines. This approach prioritizes Maryland consumers over out-of-state utilities.

One of the most important provisions of SB 953 is the temporary moratorium on new transmission line construction from July 1, 2025, to May 1, 2026. This pause is critical because Maryland must optimize existing infrastructure before rubber-stamping new transmission projects that primarily serve out-of-state interests. The Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) is a prime example of why this moratorium is necessary. Initially proposed as a project to enhance Maryland's grid reliability, the recent PJM TEAC meeting has confirmed what many of us suspected: **The MPRP will now bypass Maryland**

altogether. The new plan terminates the proposed line outside of Maryland, avoids providing power to Maryland, and instead directly connects Virginia to Pennsylvania, proving that the devastation of some of Maryland's most scenic and historic areas is merely collateral damage for Virginia's data center expansion.

Delegate Nino Mangione has played a crucial role in exposing the inconsistencies and failures in the MPRP's planning. When he pressed PSEG on whether they had considered upgrading existing infrastructure instead of constructing new lines, the company admitted they had not even evaluated this option until forced by public outcry. Only after significant pressure did they scramble to justify their predetermined stance, confirming that these projects often move forward without proper scrutiny. SB 953 ensures that projects like MPRP are given the full, transparent review they deserve rather than being rushed through at the expense of Maryland's landowners, ratepayers, and local governments.

The consequences of unchecked transmission expansion extend far beyond financial costs. Families who have lived on and cultivated their land for generations now face the possibility of losing it to eminent domain for projects that do not even serve their state. Property values will decline, farmland will be disrupted, and Maryland's environmental commitments will be undermined. Farmers, conservationists, and homeowners should not be forced into legal battles just to protect what is rightfully theirs. With SB 953, Maryland can take control of its energy future, ensuring that decisions about new transmission projects are based on necessity, not corporate convenience.

The MPRP is just one example of a broader issue. PSEG and PJM have already indicated their intent to expand transmission across Maryland, including into the Eastern Shore, threatening even more farmland and rural communities. If we do not act now, these projects will continue to multiply, burdening Marylanders with higher costs and irreversible environmental damage. The passage of SB 953 sends a clear message that Maryland will not be a pass-through for out-of-state energy interests. Instead of bowing to corporate pressure, we must invest in undergrounding power lines, grid-enhancing technologies, and distributed energy generation to build a truly modern and resilient energy system.

SB 953 is not just another energy bill: it is a defining moment for Maryland's energy future. If we fail to act, we risk higher energy costs, continued overreliance on out-of-state power, weakened local energy security, and the unnecessary destruction of communities and farmland. Maryland lawmakers must take a stand for responsible energy planning and put the brakes on reckless transmission expansion.

I urge the committee to support SB 953 and take a bold step toward an energy strategy that prioritizes Maryland's residents, landscapes, and long-term sustainability.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bryan Price
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SB 953.pdf
Uploaded by: CHERYL EBAUGH
Position: FAV

Please pass SB 953 to protect Maryland landowners and ensure that our elected officials and leaders of our beautiful state of Maryland are doing their due diligence to promote responsible transmission development and ensure fair energy policies.

Thank you,

Cheryl Ebaugh

SB 953 Amendment.pdf
Uploaded by: Christopher West
Position: FAV

SB0953/433027/1

AMENDMENTS PREPARED BY THE DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

03 MAR 25
14:00:30

BY: Senator West
(To be offered in the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 953
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, at the top of the page, insert "EMERGENCY BILL".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, strike beginning with "shall" in line 8 down through "effect" in line 11 and substitute "is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted".

SB953 FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Christopher West
Position: FAV

Chris West
Legislative District 42
Baltimore and Carroll Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 6th, 2025
The Maryland State Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
2 West Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 953*: Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland*

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

SB953 sets up a Task Force to meet intensively throughout the rest of 2025 and to produce a report by the end of the year making recommendations that will ensure the reliability and adequacy of the electricity available to Maryland ratepayers and businesses through 2040. That's a big assignment but an essential one. I have spent a great deal of time over the course of last summer and fall working on this issue, so let me explain why I think Maryland is in a great deal of trouble right now and why such a Task Force is so paramount at this time.

Maryland currently imports 40% of its electricity. Our state only generates 60% of the electricity that it needs to provide power to its homes and businesses. This situation is on course to get far worse in the next decade.

Maryland law already requires the phasing out of sales of new internal combustion engine motor vehicles by 2035, just ten years from now, but a June 4, 2024 Executive Order by Governor Moore directs the State Department of Transportation to speed up the state's transition to electric vehicles. Of course, when most of the cars on our road are powered by electricity, Maryland's electricity usage will dramatically increase, and the state will necessarily have to import yet more electricity from other states.

In the last session of the General Assembly, one of the Governor's legislative initiatives was to give incentives to businesses to locate data centers in Maryland. As discussed earlier in connection with SB955, each data center uses massive amounts of electricity. So in this respect as well, Maryland is on course to consume massively increased amounts of electricity within the next decade.

The Climate Solutions Now Act was passed in 2022. There was no discussion on the floor of the State Senate at the time that the bill was being debated about the effect of data centers on the State's electrical needs. Bills that mandate long-term critical policy changes in a world in which unexpected events occur with startling regularity can have unexpected consequences. Just as in

2019, no one anticipated the pandemic, in 2022, no one anticipated the phenomenal growth of data centers in this region.

Maryland is not the only state on track to greatly increase its use of electricity. Based on startling data just released three weeks ago, the entire PJM grid, which extends from Chicago to the Atlantic Ocean and from the New York border down into North Carolina, is experiencing a massive increase in demand for electricity. I have put a slide up on the screen just released by PJM illustrating this situation. In 2022, at the time that the Maryland General Assembly was debating the Climate Solutions Now Act, PJM was forecasting the peak summer demand for electricity systemwide would only increase marginally between 2022 and 2038, from about 150,000 MW per year to about 155,000 MW per year. Now look at the increase forecast in 2023. Now look at the increase forecast in 2024. Now look at the just-released 2025 increase forecast. These numbers are truly shocking. They reflect the construction of data centers systemwide. They reflect the statutory requirements in various states, including Maryland, to convert all of the vehicles on our roads to electricity.

What the slide does not reflect is the decision on the part of various states, most particularly including Maryland, to close down lots of existing facilities that generate electricity.

But I have attached to my testimony a statement issued by PJM on January 30, 2025, just a month ago that is truly alarming. Tucked away on page 2 of this statement is the following alarming pronouncement: "[A] capacity shortage could affect the PJM system as early as the 2026-2027 Delivery Year, which begins June 1, 2026."

Rephrased in plain English, PJM is predicting that as soon as June 1, 2026, there could not be enough electricity in its system to satisfy the demand of consumers throughout the system. To put it bluntly, as soon as June 1 of next year, the PJM system could experience the same brownouts and blackouts that Texas experienced after its ice storm several years ago.

This means that starting next June, at the times of peak demand, on the hottest days of the summer and the coldest days of the winter, parts of the PJM system will go dark. That means no air conditioning, no heat, no refrigerators, no computers, no hot water, no elevators, no lights in dark stairwells. In health care facilities without auxiliary power, elderly and sick people will die. Traffic lights will cease to operate, and accidents will multiply. Take what happened to Texas and replicate it in Maryland and other states in the PJM grid.

And things will only get worse in the following years. Look at that slide once again. You'll see that the 2025 forecast rises dramatically in each year after 2026. In 2026, the electricity demand is projected at about 155,000 MW. By 2028, the electricity demand is projected to rise to 165,000 MW. In just five years, by 2030, it's up to 175,000 MW. So if PJM projects that the grid is going to go dark on those peak demand days as early as next June, when the demand is only 155,000 MW, by 2030, we're going to go dark on lots of other non-peak days as well.

As if this information is not already grim enough, let's take a look at the supply side of the equation. Here's another slide from PJM. This one shows the existing capacity electricity production in Maryland and D.C. Actually D.C. produces no electricity, so these statistics only

reflect Maryland's production capacity. Since 2018, Maryland has seen the retirement of 6,000 MW of its electrical generation resources, and the owner of both the Brandon Shore and the Wagner electrical generating plants has announced that it plans to shut down those plants in the near future, thus depriving Maryland of an additional 2,500 MW of generating capacity.

According to this slide, Maryland is currently capable of producing a total of 11,161 MW of electricity. Of this amount, natural gas, coal and oil collectively account for 8,587 MW or 77% of Maryland's electricity production capacity. But the Climate Solutions Now Act coupled with Governor Moore's June 4, 2024 Executive Order require the closure of all of Maryland's fossil fuel electricity generating facilities by 2035, in just ten years. Unless something happens to change our course, that means that by 2035, Maryland will only be capable of producing 2,574 MW. So instead of importing 40% of our electricity as we do today, by 2035 we will only be producing 15% of the electricity that we need and will be importing fully 85% of our electricity.

One might argue that Maryland can deal with this situation by just continuing to ramp up its importation of electricity from other states. There are three very serious problems with this approach.

First and most importantly, as illustrated by the previous slide, as early as next June, PJM anticipates that there could be a capacity shortage across the entire PJM grid. In such a situation, importing electricity from other states on the grid will not be possible during periods of heavy demand for electricity as there will not be any surplus electricity.

Second, bringing in ever-increasing electricity from beyond our borders will necessitate the construction of more electrical transmission lines. The anguish caused by the new transmission line currently being proposed by PSEG will be just the tip of the iceberg. PJM's mandate is to make sure that no users in its region go dark, so it will need to contract for the construction of as many additional transmission lines as are necessary to deliver all of the additional electricity to Maryland that the state needs.

Third, and perhaps most significantly, Maryland's increasing reliance on other states to supply us with electricity will come at a significant cost to Maryland residents. This is due to the "capacity market" run by PJM. Each PJM member that provides electricity to consumers, including utilities such as BG&E which serves central Maryland, must contractually arrange to acquire enough power from suppliers to meet demand, not only for today and tomorrow but for the future. Members secure these resources for the future through the PJM capacity market, which, through periodic auctions of electricity, pairs utilities needing power with suppliers capable of providing the power needed to meet predicted energy demand for three years into the future. The capacity market auctions conducted by PJM are governed by the laws of supply and demand. While the General Assembly can pass and repeal all of the laws it wants, it cannot repeal the law of supply and demand. When demand rapidly increases, as at present, and supply is constrained, as at present, the price of capacity market electricity skyrockets.

The most recent capacity auction occurred last July. Given the high anticipated demand and limited anticipated supplies of power, it was not surprising that the price paid by BG&E for its capacity power in last July's auction shot up to $466 per MW-day, a 600% increase! BG&E's

price will be the highest price paid by any utility in the entire PJM system. The new slide illustrates this fact. These higher costs will be passed through to BG&E's customers starting on June 1, 2025. Current expectations are that an average BG&E customer will experience a $300-$432 annual increase in the customer's electricity bills during the 12-months following June 1, 2025. PJM anticipates that in its next capacity auction, the costs of capacity electricity will rise even higher, perhaps much higher. In other words, Maryland's failure to satisfy its electrical needs through local generation of electricity and its reliance on the capacity market will hit every single Maryland family and every single Maryland business in their pocketbooks each time they receive their monthly electrical bills. Many Maryland consumers are going to be very upset when they start to receive these markedly higher monthly bills.

It is not an exaggeration to conclude that Maryland's energy situation is dire today and threatens to become catastrophic within a very short period of time. Because new generating facilities take a long time to plan, get permitted, construct and put into operation, continuing to drag our feet about what to do is just not an option.

SB953 creates a Task Force to meet intensively throughout the rest of 2025 and to produce a report by the end of the year making recommendations that will ensure the reliability and adequacy of the electricity available to Maryland ratepayers and businesses through 2040. The mission of the Task Force will be to assess where we will be in 2030, 2035 and 2040 if we continue along the same course we are on today and to consider how things would be different in those years if we set as a goal for ourselves importing no more than 25% of our electricity in future years. In light of the fact that Maryland currently imports 40% of our electricity and on course to import up to 85% of our electricity, I think setting a target of importing no more than 25% of our electricity may be aspirational but not unrealistic if we adopt tough new policies.

SB953 explicitly requires the Task Force to consider the expansion of nuclear generation in the State, the expansion of renewable energy resources in the State, the prioritization of energy storage facilities in the State and upgrades and enhancements of transmission systems in the State.

The membership of the Task Force is intentionally broad and diverse. I will rely on this Committee to alter the membership to fill in gaps. But my intention was to get the smartest people in the State into a room and get them to grapple with these issues in a very serious way. For this reason the Task Force is not stacked one way or the other.

Finally, I have provided the members of the Committee with two proposed amendments to SB953. First, as originally drafted, SB953 requires the Public Service Commission to defer any decision on the pending application of PSEG for a certificate of convenience and necessity as to the proposed 70-mile transmission line until May 1, 2026. The Public Service Commission has objected to this infringement on their prerogatives. I am satisfied that the PSC is going to perform all of its customary due diligence with respect to the PSEG application and will not approve the application if the General Assembly in the 2026 Session is considering significant changes to Maryland's energy policies that would obviate the need for the proposed transmission line, so the first of my amendments proposes deleting lines 4-7 on page 4 of the bill.

Second, DLS drafted this bill to assign a July 1 start date for the Task Force. I don't think we should wait until July 1 to get started on this critically important study. For this reason, I have had an amendment prepared to make this bill an Emergency bill, so the Task Force can start to meet as soon as the Governor signs the bill.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 953 and will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

Task Force Information.pdf
Uploaded by: Christopher West
Position: FAV

West, Chris Senator

From: Quinn, Brian M. <BQuinn@Venable.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 11:59 AM
To: West, Chris Senator
Subject: RE: PJM - 2025 load forecast

Senator West,

PJM posted the story below that further explains the 2025 load forecast. Please let me know if you have questions.

Want to bring to your attention a statement from the story below:

"PJM has warned that a capacity shortage could affect the PJM system as early as the 2026/2027 Delivery Year, which begins June 1, 2026."

https://insidelines.pjm.com/2025-long-term-load-forecast-report-predicts-significant-increase-in-electricity-demand/

2025 Long-Term Load Forecast Report Predicts Significant Increase in Electricity Demand

PJM and Members Taking Action To Maintain Generation Supply

January 30, 2025
3

The PJM 2025 Long-Term Load Forecast Report (PDF) predicts significant growth in electricity demand over a 20-year planning horizon.

According to the forecast, released Jan. 24, PJM expects its summer peak to climb about 70,000 MW, to 220,000 MW over the next 15 years. The record summer peak for the PJM footprint occurred in 2006 at 165,563 MW.

While winter peaks will remain slightly lower, the 2025 Long-Term Load Forecast shows winter closing the gap in peak electricity use, estimated at 210,000 MW by 2039. PJM's record-high winter peak occurred last week, when PJM served a preliminary load of approximately 145,000 MW on the morning of Jan. 22, according to preliminary load estimates. Current generating capacity in PJM is about 183,000 MW.

2025 Long-Term Load Forecast – Changes From Previous Forecast

Year (Winter Season Dec – Feb)	Winter Peak (MW)	Change from 2024 Long-Term Load Forecast (MW/%)	Year	Summer Peak (MW)	Change From 2024 Long-Term Load Forecast (MW/%)
2024/25	136,127	-201 (-0.1%)	2025	154,144	651 (+0.4%)
2029/30	167,237	14,367 (+9.4%)	2030	183,883	16,010 (+9.5%)
2034/35	198,175	32,470 (+19.6%)	2035	209,923	30,301 (+16.9%)
2039/40	209,718	N/A	2040	220,224	N/A
2044/45	218,760	N/A	2045	228,544	N/A

"This forecast captures the dramatic increases in future energy demand, as evidenced by the last two years when data center development has grown exponentially," said Aftab Khan, Executive Vice President, Operations, Planning & Security.

This year, PJM extended the forecast horizon from 15 to 20 years in keeping with the new Order 1920 long-term transmission planning rule from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The annualized growth rate over the next 20 years for the summer peak is 2.0%, compared with the 2024 Long-Term Load Forecast, which saw a comparable growth rate of 1.6% through 2039. Similarly, the 20-year annualized growth rate in the 2025 Long-Term Load Forecast for the winter peak is up to 2.4%, compared with 1.8% for the previous 15-year forecast.

PJM has warned that a capacity shortage could affect the PJM system as early as the 2026/2027 Delivery Year, which begins June 1, 2026. Factors driving this concern include:

- The demand for electricity is growing at the fastest pace in years, primarily from the proliferation of data centers, electrification of buildings and vehicles, and manufacturing.
- Thermal generators – which provide the dispatchable generation needed to maintain reliability – are retiring at a rapid pace due to government and private sector policies as well as economics.
- New replacement resources with the needed reliability attributes aren't being built fast enough.

To mitigate the risk of a capacity shortage, the Board of Managers has directed efforts intended to bring capacity online more expeditiously and make sure price signals accurately reflect supply-demand fundamentals. These efforts include:

- **Interconnection Process Reform**: PJM and stakeholders have worked for several years to improve the process by which new generation gets connected to the grid. Approximately 50,000 MW of projects are now through the PJM study process and clear to build. Between 2024 and 2026, PJM expects to process approximately

170,000 MW worth of generation projects, mostly renewables and storage. PJM planners and impacted transmission owners have studied about 1,200 projects since interconnection process reform was implemented in July 2023.

- **Reliability Resource Initiative (RRI)**: The RRI is a narrowly tailored, one-time proposal filed with FERC that is designed to expedite the interconnection of a limited number of shovel-ready generating resources. A FERC decision on the PJM RRI proposal is expected in February 2025.
- **Surplus Interconnection Service (SIS)**: PJM has filed with FERC a proposal to streamline existing SIS Tariff provisions to allow new generators that do not trigger transmission system upgrades to use an existing generator's unused interconnection capability without having to go through the generation interconnection process. A FERC decision on proposed changes to SIS is expected in February 2025.
- **Capacity Market Adjustments**: PJM has filed with FERC a handful of modest reforms that reflect system realities to ensure the market continues to represent supply-demand fundamentals, risk and resource performance, and evolves as the system evolves. The auction date for the 2026/2027 Delivery Year was moved from December 2024 to mid-2025 to provide time for FERC approval and subsequent adjustments to proposed market rule changes. PJM's filings seek to maintain the model resource used to help set prices in the capacity market, better reflecting current economic realities of developing new generation. PJM also proposed to acknowledge the contribution of Reliability Must-Run resources in the capacity market, where appropriate, to better reflect the system's available supply.
- **Capacity Interconnection Rights (CIR) Transfer Reforms**: PJM will soon file with FERC a reform package endorsed by stakeholders designed to facilitate an expedited interconnection process for a replacement resource seeking to use the CIRs of a deactivating resource.

Accounting for Large Load Adjustments to the Forecast

PJM annually solicits information from its member electric distribution companies (EDCs) for large load shifts (either positive or negative) that are known to the EDCs but may be unknown to PJM. PJM reviews the requests, gauging their significance and risk of double-counting; for example, is the trend likely to have been captured in the economic forecast? For the 2025 Long-Term Load Forecast, these include:

- Data centers (AEP, APS, ATSI, BGE, ComEd, Dayton, PECO, PL, PS, Dominion)
- Industrial (AEP)
- Electric-vehicle battery manufacturing (COMED)
- Steel facility (Duke)
- Electrification of New Jersey ports of Bayonne, Elizabeth and Newark (PS)

The Long-Term Forecast Process

This report includes long-term forecasts of peak loads, net energy, load management, distributed solar generation, plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) and battery storage for each PJM zone, region, locational deliverability area and the total RTO. The long-term forecast is for planning purposes and is separate from the daily and weekly forecasts performed by PJM Operations to prepare for daily load changes.

The PJM long-term load forecast is constructed using 24 hourly models for each transmission zone. In each model, load is the dependent variable, considered alongside weather, calendar events, economic data and end-use variables. In the history, PJM starts with metered load and then reconstitutes total load with load-management addbacks, load drops associated with peak-shaving programs, and distributed solar generation estimates.

This report presents an independent load forecast prepared by PJM staff. The load forecast process considers residential, commercial and industrial sectors, each with its own set of models and inputs, including input variables for end-use saturation and efficiency as well as for economic drivers.

Insights from this process, combined with data on historical weather, are the starting point for determining peak and energy forecasts. PJM staff then makes adjustments based on forecast growth in behind-the-meter solar generation, battery storage and plug-in EVs, and also considers information from electric distribution companies on non-modeled trends, such as data centers. The forecast also took into account the New Jersey Order on Electrification.

Learn more on the Load Forecast Development Process page.

Brian M. Quinn, Esq. | Venable LLP
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BQuinn@Venable.com | www.Venable.com

From: Quinn, Brian M.
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 11:59 AM
To: 'West, Chris Senator' <Chris.West@senate.state.md.us>
Subject: PJM - 2025 load forecast

Senator,

Nice to see you the other day. PJM released its 2025 load forecast last Friday.

The 2030 load projection is 9.9% higher than what they projected just last year.

By way of comparison, PJM's current installed generation capacity is approximately 180 GW. PJM now predicting they will need another 31 GW by 2030 (across the footprint).

The forecast is available on the website.

https://www.pjm.com/planning/resource-adequacy-planning/load-forecast-dev-process

More details to come when the official press release is available. I will send as soon as I see it.

Thanks

Brian M. Quinn, Esq. | Venable LLP
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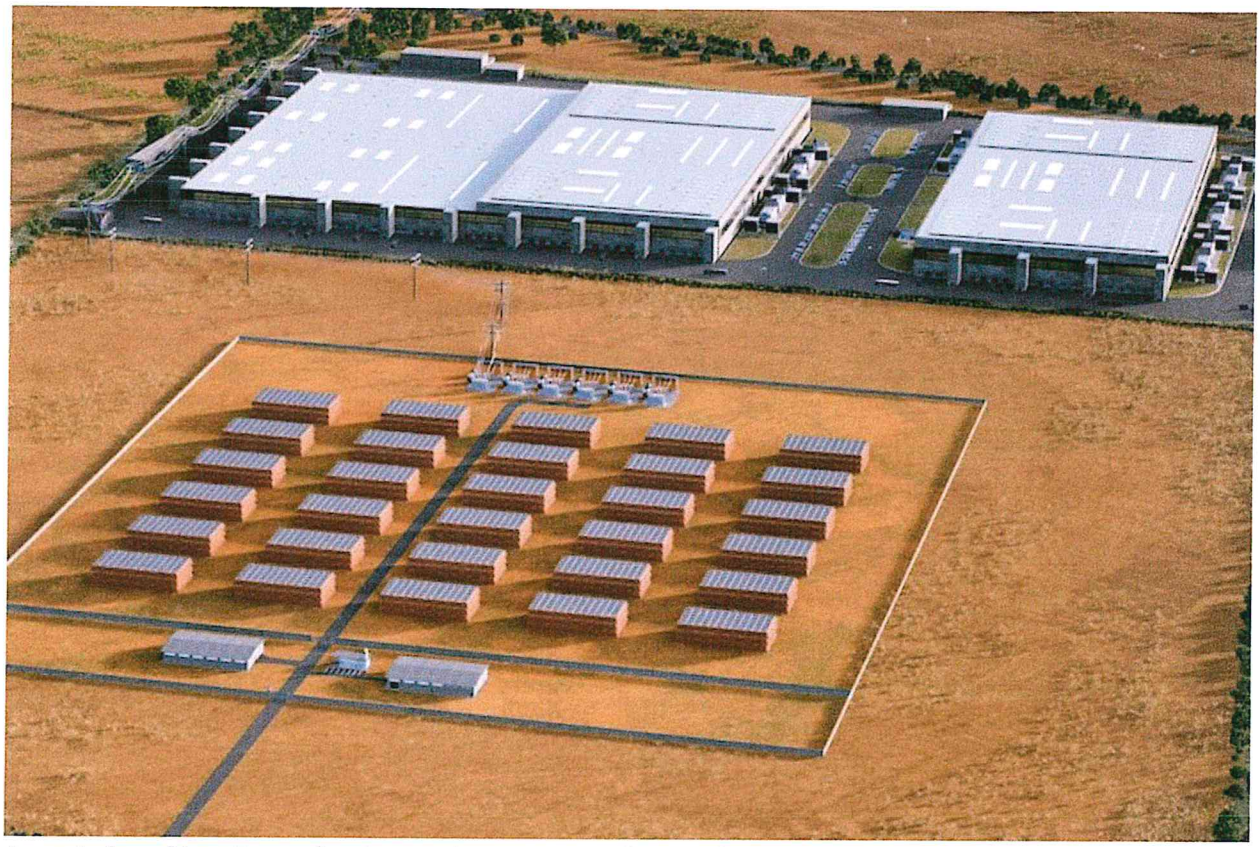
Feb. 28, 2025

|

Updated 8:18 a.m. CST

|

2 min. read



A rendering of Last Energy's micronuclear reactors planned for Haskell County, Texas.(Last Energy / Last Energy)

Last Energy plans to plant 30 micronuclear facilities in Haskell County, as energy companies move to address the voracious power needs of data centers fueling the artificial intelligence boom.

The nuclear technology startup announced Friday that it plans to break ground at a 200-acre site in Haskell, a town nearly 180 miles west of Dallas.

Microreactors are smaller nuclear plants that can generate electricity and heat for industrial applications — which are booming alongside North Texas' expanding population and economy.

Washington, D.C.-based Last Energy, which already has two micronuclear prototypes in Texas, has applied for a grid connection with the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). It plans to file for a permit with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the firm said in a statement.

Matthew McKinzie, senior director of data and policy at the Science Office of the nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council, sounded a more cautionary, skeptical note on SMRs.

"The most important thing to know about SMRs is that they don't exist in a commercially viable way," he said. "There is no real-world data on the performance of SMRs, as none have been manufactured at scale."

SMRs are at an economic disadvantage due to their lower power output compared with traditional reactors, McKinzie said. That results in less revenue for the owning utility while the cost of construction is not similarly proportionally smaller.

"For SMRs to play any role in the future, the technology must address concerns around cost, environmental radiation, nuclear waste and nuclear weapons proliferation," he said. "Absent meeting these challenges, the technology is unlikely to succeed."

But Holtec's Springman on Tuesday at the Palisades ceremony sounded a far more optimistic tone.

"Just as we did for the restart, I am proud that our company, our team and our partners our willing to raise our hands: 'We will go first.' "

NEWS / TECH / CLIMATE

Bill Gates' nuclear energy startup inks new data center deal / Tech companies are flocking to nuclear energy to power their data centers.

By Justine Calma, a senior science reporter covering energy and the environment with more than a decade of experience. She is also the host of **Hell or High Water: When Disaster Hits Home**, a podcast from Vox Media and Audible Originals.

Jan 23, 2025, 3:27 PM EST

5 Comments (5 New)

A screenshot from a video of TerraPower's groundbreaking ceremony for its demonstration project in Wyoming.

TerraPower, a nuclear energy startup founded by Bill Gates, struck a deal this week with one of the largest data center developers in the US to deploy advanced nuclear reactors. TerraPower and Sabey Data

Tech companies are scrambling to determine where to get all the electricity they'll need for energy-hungry AI data centers that are putting growing pressure on power grids. They're increasingly turning to nuclear energy, including next-generation reactors that startups like TerraPower are developing.

"The energy sector is transforming at an unprecedented pace."

"The energy sector is transforming at an unprecedented pace after decades of business as usual, and meaningful progress will require strategic collaboration across industries," TerraPower President and CEO Chris Levesque said in a press release.

A memorandum of understanding signed by the two companies establishes a "strategic collaboration" that'll initially look into the potential for new nuclear power plants in Texas and the Rocky Mountain region that would power SDC's data centers.

There's still a long road ahead before that can become a reality. The technology TerraPower and similar nuclear energy startups are developing still have to make it through regulatory hurdles and prove that they can be commercially viable.

Compared to older, larger nuclear power plants, the next generation of reactors are supposed to be smaller and easier to site. Nuclear energy is seen as an alternative to fossil fuels that are causing climate change. But it still faces opposition from some advocates concerned about the impact of uranium mining and storing radioactive waste near communities.

"I'm a big believer that nuclear energy can help us solve the climate problem, which is very, very important. There are designs that, in terms

TerraPower's reactor design for this collaboration, Natrium, is the only advanced technology of its kind with a construction permit application for a commercial reactor pending with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, according to the company. The company just broke ground on a demonstration project in Wyoming last year, and expects it to come online in 2030.

5 years away

Electricity demand from data centers has tripled over the past decade, according to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). That demand is only expected to grow with the rise of AI, a trend that could prolong the lives of aging fossil fuel power plants and revive retired nuclear plants.

Microsoft made a deal in September to help restart a retired reactor at Three Mile Island. Both Google and Amazon, meanwhile, announced plans last year to support the development of advanced reactors to power their data centers.

More from **Tech**

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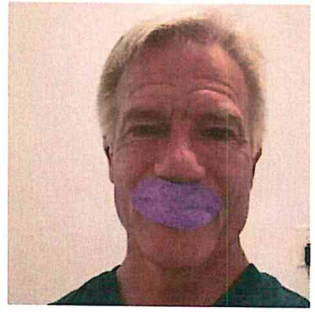

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SB953 - McFarland Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Elizabeth (Betsy) McFarland
Position: FAV

Elizabeth (“Betsy”) and Michael McFarland
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Adamstown, MD 21710
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betsymcfarland@gmail.com
mike@moxiecreations.com

March 4, 2025

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

testimony FAV SB 953 Task Force 2025.pdf
Uploaded by: Emily Tarsel
Position: FAV

Emily Tarsell, LCPC

2314 Benson Mill Road
Sparks, Maryland 21152
March 06, 2025

Favorable SB 953 (HB1218)
Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland

Dear Chairman Feldman and Senate EEE Committee Members,

I am Emily Tarsell, a mother, licensed therapist and founder of Health Choice Maryland. We are all concerned about Maryland's electrical needs and the impact on the environment, businesses, residents, farms and health of the currently proposed MPRP project. Of the multiple bills proposed to address this issue, SB953 (HB 1218) makes the most sense.

This bill would establish a Task Force whose mission would be to determine Maryland's current and future electrical needs, anticipated costs involved in obtaining the needed power and to explore various policy options to ensure reliable and adequate electricity with full consideration of the impact of the respective policies on the environment, the economy, residences, farms, businesses and health.

Albeit such a Task Force should have been created years ago, the proposed bill is an intelligent, thoughtful approach to the issue. We ask your **Favorable vote for SB953.**

Thank you.

Emily Tarsell, LCPC

Testimony to General Assembly James Belt 03042025.

Uploaded by: James Belt

Position: FAV

March 4, 2025

James H. Belt, III

2626 Stone Road

Westminster, MD 21158

Maryland General Assembly

RE: Support of bills advocating for a better approach to energy development

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly:

My name is James Belt. As a resident of Carroll County and a proud Maryland business owner, I am writing to ask you to vote favorably for bills advocating a better approach to energy development.

As someone who had the potential to be impacted by the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project, I was disturbed and disappointed by the existing process for project consideration and protections for landowners. It became apparent that the current process did not require enough investigation into potential alternatives to the proposed transmission lines. Additionally, the public appeared to be brought into the process at later stages, making it harder for citizens impacted by the project to voice their concerns. It appears that there may be many viable alternatives to the proposed project. I also believe there has not been enough consideration to the impact of closing existing power plants before the State of Maryland has a viable alternative to generate the power being lost.

With that in mind, I would strongly encourage you to vote for the proposed bills that improve the process, provide more protection for Maryland citizens, and advocate for investigation into potentially better and more economic alternatives to new transmission lines.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best,

James Belt

(410)-236-3574

Jessica Malatt.pdf
Uploaded by: Jessica Malatt
Position: FAV

Jessica Malatt

7709 Hobbs Court

Mount Airy, MD 21771

jessicamalatt@gmail.com

240-529-2348

3/4/2025

Testimony in Support of Senate Bills 483, 853, 947, 950, 951, 952, 953, 955 and House Bills 631, 1079, 1337, 1362, 1396

To:

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Chair: Senator Brian J. Feldman – brian.feldman@senate.state.md.us

Vice Chair: Senator Cheryl C. Kagan – cheryl.kagan@senate.state.md.us

House Economic Matters Committee

Chair: Delegate C.T. Wilson – ct.wilson@house.state.md.us

Vice Chair: Delegate Brian M. Crosby – brian.crosby@house.state.md.us

From: Jessica Malatt

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee & the House Economic Matters Committee,

My name is Jessica Malatt, and I am a resident of Mount Airy, Maryland. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bills 483, 853, 947, 950, 951, 952, 953, 955 and House Bills 631, 1079, 1337, 1362, 1396, which are essential in protecting homeowners, families, and our environment from unnecessary and harmful infrastructure projects like the Maryland Public Service Commission's (PSC) MPRP transmission line proposal.

As a homeowner in a rural community directly impacted by this project, my greatest concern is the well-being of my family. My husband and I chose to build our home in this peaceful, natural environment to raise our children away from urban congestion, noise, and industrial encroachment. The proposed transmission lines would disrupt this way of life, forcing us to live beneath towering electrical structures and exposing our children to potential health risks from

electromagnetic fields. This is not what we envisioned when we made a lifelong investment in this property.

Beyond the direct impact on my home, the MPRP transmission project threatens the surrounding forested land, including a neighboring property that shares the same woodland area. This forest serves as a natural buffer, providing privacy, clean air, and an essential habitat for wildlife. If this project proceeds unchecked, it will irreversibly damage the environment, destroy mature trees, and alter the rural character of our community.

The bills I support ensure that homeowners like myself are not forced to accept industrial-scale projects in our backyards without thorough evaluation of alternative solutions.

• Senate Bill 483 requires the Public Service Commission to consider less invasive options before approving new transmission lines, protecting sensitive environmental and residential areas.

• House Bill 631 reinforces property rights by preventing the state from taking land under perpetual agricultural or conservation easements.

• Senate Bill 953 proposes the creation of a task force to develop a realistic electricity plan for Maryland, ensuring that future infrastructure meets energy demands responsibly without sacrificing homeowner rights.

These measures provide necessary oversight and accountability to prevent projects like MPRP from overriding the interests of Maryland's homeowners and environment.

While some may argue that expanding the power grid is necessary for future energy demands, we must balance progress with responsible development. Placing transmission lines in residential and environmentally sensitive areas is not the only option—alternative solutions such as underground lines or existing right-of-ways should be prioritized.

These bills advocate for that balance, ensuring that Maryland's infrastructure needs do not come at the cost of:

• Families' health

• Property values

• Environmental conservation

Call to Action

I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bills 483, 853, 947, 950, 951, 952, 953, 955 and House Bills 631, 1079, 1337, 1362, 1396, and to advocate for their passage to protect Maryland's homeowners, preserve our forests, and prevent unnecessary and harmful infrastructure development.

Closing and Thank You

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at jessicamalatt@gmail.com or 240-529-2348. I appreciate your dedication to serving our community and look forward to seeing your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Jessica Malatt

FAV_SB0953_StopMPRPInc..pdf
Uploaded by: Joanne Frederick
Position: FAV

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

BILL NO.: Senate Bill 953 – Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
HEARING DATE: March 6, 2025
SPONSORS: Senators West, Lewis Young, Ready, and Watson
POSITION: Favorable

I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill 953 (SB953),** which establishes the **Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland** and imposes a **temporary moratorium on the construction or expansion of transmission lines**. SB953 is a critical step toward ensuring **energy security, economic growth, and the protection of Maryland's natural resources and farmland**.

Maryland's Overreliance on Imported Electricity Harms Consumers and Businesses

Maryland currently imports **40 percent of its electricity** from out-of-state sources, making us highly dependent on **PJM Interconnection's volatile capacity market**. This reliance on external power generation leads to:

- **Higher electricity rates** for Maryland consumers and businesses.
- **Grid instability and supply risks**, as we remain vulnerable to fluctuations in out-of-state generation.
- **Lost economic opportunities**, as Maryland fails to develop and sustain local energy generation that could create **jobs and revenue within the state**.

At a time when Maryland seeks **economic growth and new business investment**, our excessively high utility rates have become a deterrent for companies looking to relocate or expand operations. Businesses need predictable and affordable energy to thrive, but Maryland's current system puts us at a competitive disadvantage compared to states with greater energy self-sufficiency.

The Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP): An Unnecessary and Destructive Transmission Expansion

The proposed **Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP)** exemplifies why SB953 is necessary. This transmission project, designed to expand the power grid without fully considering alternatives like upgrading existing lines, poses serious threats to Maryland's economy, environment, and communities.

The MPRP project would:

- **Destroy hundreds of acres of farmland, forests, and conservation easements**, violating Maryland's commitment to land preservation.
- **Devalue private properties**, particularly in rural and suburban communities, diminishing generational wealth and harming local economies.
- **Threaten the Chesapeake Bay watershed** by increasing erosion, runoff, and habitat destruction.
- **Bypass cost-effective upgrades to existing infrastructure** in favor of new transmission lines that guarantee corporate profits but impose costs on Maryland residents.

Instead of rubber-stamping new, unnecessary transmission lines, Maryland must focus on **optimizing existing energy infrastructure**, ensuring grid resilience, and supporting **locally generated electricity** to reduce dependence on external power sources.

The Economic Importance of Agriculture and the Threat of Transmission Expansion

Agriculture is a cornerstone of Maryland's economy, contributing billions annually and sustaining **rural jobs, food security, and land conservation**. The MPRP project and similar large-scale transmission expansions directly threaten this industry by:

- **Fragmenting farms and making land unusable for production**.
- **Increasing financial burdens on farmers**, who must cope with land devaluation and restricted operations.
- **Reducing local food production**, increasing reliance on external supply chains, and undermining Maryland's agricultural heritage.

By halting unnecessary transmission expansion, SB953 protects Maryland farmers, rural communities, and the state's agricultural economy.

Why SB953 Is Critical for Maryland's Future

SB953 does not prevent responsible energy infrastructure development—it ensures **smart, long-term planning** that prioritizes Maryland's energy security, economic growth, and environmental stewardship.

This bill:

- **Establishes a Task Force** to study Maryland's realistic electricity needs through 2040.
- **Requires an analysis of in-state energy generation opportunities**, reducing reliance on expensive, out-of-state power.
- **Explores cost-effective solutions like grid modernization, nuclear expansion, and energy storage**, ensuring affordable and stable electricity for Marylanders.
- **Temporarily pauses transmission expansion** to prevent irreversible damage before a comprehensive energy plan is developed.

Conclusion: Put Maryland Back in Control of Its Energy Future

SB953 is a common-sense, forward-thinking approach that ensures Maryland does not continue to sacrifice farmland, ratepayer dollars, and energy independence for the benefit of out-of-state utilities.

By passing SB953, we can:

- **Create a stable and affordable energy future** for Maryland.
- **Protect farmland and rural economies from unnecessary transmission expansion**.
- **Attract new businesses and jobs by lowering electricity costs** and ensuring a more self-sufficient energy system.

I strongly urge this committee to support SB953 and take decisive action to put **Maryland back in control of its energy future**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Frederick
President
Stop MPRP, Inc.
joanne.frederick@stopmprp.org
443.789.1382

MPRP BILLS SUPPORT.pdf
Uploaded by: Julie Holly
Position: FAV

I am writing in support of the following bills: SB483, SB853, SB947, SB950, SB951, SB952, SB953, SB955, HB631, HB1079, HB1337, HB1362, and HB1396.

Each of these bills is essential to ensuring that any entity seeking to construct energy transmission or generating facilities is held accountable for the full impact of its actions. For too long, citizens have shouldered the financial and personal costs of these projects—whether through harm to their health, businesses, properties, incomes, or overall quality of life. Meanwhile, corporations reap the benefits without sufficient regard for the communities they affect.

The approval of the MPRP project as currently proposed would send a troubling message to Maryland residents about where their interests rank in the eyes of their representatives. Maryland thrives when its communities thrive, and maintaining a strong, engaged population depends on policies that protect the well-being and economic stability of those who call this state home. Enacting stricter regulations to ensure corporate responsibility would reinforce that Maryland legislators are committed to safeguarding their constituents and the long-term prosperity of the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Julie Holly, District 4

CCF_000011(1).pdf
Uploaded by: Krista Hall
Position: FAV

Krista L Hall
4404 Red Rose Ct
Middletown, MD 21769
kristahall17@gmail.com

March 4,2025

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 0953 -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: Krista L Hall

Dear Chair West, Vice-Chair Carroza and Members of the Energy and Environment Committee

My name is Krista Hall, and I am a resident of Middletown, Maryland. I am writing to express my support for SB953; Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland and establishment of a task force to study environmental and realistic solutions and protections for Maryland's farmland from harmful environmental and other development projects.

As a Frederick County resident for over 40 years, I have seen firsthand the devastating impacts that poorly planned projects have on our land, personal and commercial, and our health and livelihood.

This does not affect my local community per se, other than to open the door for other projects of a similar nature to come in to impact my local community. I already have high tension power lines nearby that I believe affect the health of the residents living adjacent to them. In addition, one son and his family and property will be severely affected as well as the farmland that sits directly behind his property and adjacent to it. This affects farms growing crops to feed the farm animals, as well as a Gaver Tree farm in their immediate vicinity that grow trees and agriculture for the community.

I also think you need to locally look at the impact of land surrounding Ft Detrick in our County, as to huge increases in home building on that land with developers. Does no one ever think of the health of people living on the land with the toxic waste that has been buried there for many years without recourse. It was Federal land, but it has become local when real people live there.

As a counter argument to the above, I will acknowledge that Ft Detrick has established many acres of solar power fields, and to that end I feel we need to provide heat sources for our area. I vehemently oppose non-local companies blatantly taking our land to use to serve their electrical needs in localities other than Maryland. We must find our own infrastructure and increase our local Maryland production. You Chairman, Vice- Chair. and the committee, I pray, will work diligently to find our solutions for our state, without outside commercial enterprises that absolutely do not benefit us and take away our resources, both environmentally and our own chronic health issues in our country, county and state.

I respectfully urge you to support SB 930 Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland, and to advocate for its passage to protect Maryland's farmland, heritage, and the good people's health and welfare.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at kristahall17@gmail.com.

I appreciate your dedication to serving our community and look forward to seeing your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,
Krista L Hall
Krista L Hall

SB953.pdf
Uploaded by: Lisa Orens
Position: FAV

I support SB953 for several reasons:

First, we must ensure that Maryland doesn't waste resources on unnecessary infrastructure before a full, data-driven electricity plan is in place.

Second, Local generation options MUST be considered first, reducing the need for expensive and disruptive long-distance transmission.

Third, Residents, landowners, farmers and business owners are protected from rushed development and eminent domain threats.

SB953 offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rethink Maryland's energy strategy. It puts the brakes on reckless transmission expansion while allowing time for a real, Maryland-focused plan that prioritizes affordable, reliable and locally sourced electricity.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Orens

Owner, Bluebird Hall Farm

SB0953 - FAVORABLE testimony - MPatton.pdf
Uploaded by: Mary Patton
Position: FAV

Mary Patton
5772 Catoctin Vista Dr
Mount Airy, MD
walton_m@yahoo.com
March 4, 2025

Re: Testimony in Support of SB0953 – Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Forst to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland

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 SB0953 will help protect communities from similar projects by creating a strategic plan for Maryland's energy independence.

Maryland's dependence on out-of-state electricity and power has led to higher electricity prices, reliability risks, and economic disadvantages. By creating a task force to develop a realistic electricity plan for Maryland, recommendations can be developed that will reduce Maryland's dependence on imported electricity, modernize the existing transmission and distribution system, and ensure energy affordability. Further, by placing a temporary moratorium on new transmission line construction, Maryland can take the time needed to craft a long-term energy strategy that prioritizes optimizing existing infrastructure, avoids land seizures through eminent domain, and serves to protect our communities in a sustainable way.

I ask you to support this bill and find a smarter path forward for Maryland by demanding a responsible, forward-thinking electricity plan for Maryland.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Patton

please support sb 953.pdf
Uploaded by: Matthew Moran
Position: FAV

March 4, 2025

Dear Honorable Senators and Delegates,

Maryland needs to have a sensible energy plan that takes into consideration all other alternatives and new technologies. We should stop all new projects and form a task force to investigate better ways of proceeding into the future with our energy supply.

Please support SB 953

Thank you very much,

Matt Moran

2931 Monocacy Bottom Rd.
Adamstown, MD 21710
monocacybottommatt@gmail.com

SB953 - McFarland Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Mike McFarland
Position: FAV

Elizabeth (“Betsy”) and Michael McFarland
2501 Monocacy Bottom Road
Adamstown, MD 21710
240-447-8616
betsymcfarland@gmail.com
mike@moxiecreations.com

March 4, 2025

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

Letter_MGA_3-4-25.pdf
Uploaded by: Nancy Smith
Position: FAV

Nancy L. Smith
10910 Harp Hill Road
Myersville, Md 21773
301-606-2185
nlsmith@gmail.com

Testimony in Support of
SB953: Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland

I am writing to express my strong support for SB953. My husband and I and our family have lived in rural Maryland for many years and own land here – not much, but we have a garden and trees. My husband has lived in Maryland most of his life; the open spaces and beauty of the Catoctin Mountains were touchstones of safety and connection for him. I see the natural beauty of the land and many layers of vegetation as a wellspring of healthy life. I have been a healthcare worker – an ICU nurse then an acupuncturist - most of my days. I believe preserving our forests, wetlands and farms can go a long way in maintaining the health and quality of life for Marylanders. That is why I believe this bill can help explore ways to sustainably meet energy needs along with preserving our vital natural systems, including water. It would place a moratorium on new transmission projects and form a task force for realistic energy planning.

A recent study from Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability finds that electricity demand can be met through grid flexibility solutions—without building new high-voltage transmission lines like the proposed Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP). **https://nicholasinstitute.duke.edu/articles/three-key-takeaways-rethinking-load-growth-us-power-systems.**

The old cliché "is the juice worth the squeeze" comes into play here. Paul Krugman, the Nobel Laureate in economics recently wrote about an interview with Jim Chanos, the American investment manager. Mr. Chanos likened the proliferation of data centers as a mirage of extraction. He stated that the run up to massive investment in data centers may prove to yield less value in real terms. https://paulkrugman.substack.com/p/why-ai-spending-reminds-jim-chanos

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 953 to protect Maryland's lands and ecosystems along with balancing energy needs.

Thank you so much for your attention. It is really a privilege to be able to voice my opinions to my representatives; and I value and honor your work.

Please vote in favor of SB 953

MPRP letter.docx.pdf
Uploaded by: Steven Wilson
Position: FAV

Dear Maryland Representatives,

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) and stand in unity with my many neighbors that would be affected by this project to oppose it.

I believe that this project has brought to the forefront a looming energy crisis that is facing the State of Maryland.

Senate Bill 953 addresses these concerns, halting current projects and assembling a group to develop a comprehensive plan to address the energy crisis in our state. I enthusiastically support this bill.

I appreciate the time and energy that the legislature, particularly my local representative Chris West, has spent on researching and developing a plan to address this crisis.

While I agree with the development of an enhanced power grid using carbon neutral power sources, including nuclear energy, I believe that the MPRP project will greatly impact the environment along the line both during development and in the future as it is maintained and further enhanced.

I certainly acknowledge the need to support high-technology industries that require data centers, however, allowing them to expand without sharing in the cost of generating and transmitting the necessary energy is unreasonable.

I believe that energy needs to be generated locally and primarily through sustainable sources like solar, wind, geothermal, and nuclear. Newer technologies like hydrogen fusion need to be fast-tracked. The technology and cost challenges of energy storage also needs to be addressed quickly through research and possibly subsidy. The use of natural gas and propane will probably be needed for some time; however, this eventually needs to be phased out as it becomes more and more costly and difficult to produce with increasingly devastating effects to the environment.

I believe that energy transmission should follow existing infrastructure along the many roads and bridges that are already in place and not impact our fragile natural spaces.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to these important matters

Steven Wilson

17509 Wesley Chapel Rd

Monkton, MD 21111

Swilson95713@gmail.com/ 443-864-2950

SB953.pdf
Uploaded by: Suzannah Moran
Position: FAV

Dear Senators,

I am writing to ask you to support SB953. It has become abundantly clear that there are serious flaws in our nation's energy generation and distribution system. Rather than forging ahead with costly and destructive projects, I urge you to support a moratorium on new transmission infrastructure while a realistic comprehensive energy plan can be developed. Please consider the rapid advancements in grid enhancing technologies that have not been incorporated into proposed new transmission projects. Also, please consider the social, environmental, and ecological destruction that comes with greenfield transmission routes and other piecemeal projects that are being rushed through. We must take the time to get this right.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Suzannah Moran
2931 Monocacy Bottom Rd
Adamstown, MD 21710

SB0953.pdf
Uploaded by: Whitney Miller
Position: FAV

Hello,

Maryland is fortunate to be a state with intelligent individuals that are capable of making sensible decisions for the future. We cannot be myopic; we must look to the future. We need to ensure that any decisions we make now are the best for the current time and will not need to be amended or reversed in the future. Dedicating time and individuals to study our needs is a worthwhile use of our resources that would increase our efficiency for the future, instead of focusing only on the present. Please support SB 0953.

Thank you,

Whitney Miller
Maryland Resident

SB0953_ FAV WAMEND_PSC.pdf
Uploaded by: Frederick Hoover
Position: FWA

STATE OF MARYLAND

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chair Brian Feldman
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 953 – Favorable with Amendments – Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Public Service Commission (the Commission) requests a favorable report for Senate Bill 953 (SB 953) with amendments detailed in this testimony. The Commission supports examining the electricity needs of Maryland and how to serve them and can participate in the proposed task force. The Commission notes that the proposed timeline for the study may be aggressive but defers to the Maryland Energy Administration as to the required resources necessary to complete the required studies.

The Commission suggests two amendments to the proposed legislation. First the Commission suggests that the legislation either strike or clarify the use of the word "realistic" in the proposed legislation. The term "realistic" will mean different things to different task force members regarding what may occur in the future. The Commission suggests that instead the task force be directed to develop and study different scenarios that reflect certain criteria provided by the legislature in lieu of the term "realistic."

Second, the Commission requests that uncodified section 2 be struck from the proposed legislation. This section prohibits the issuance of a certificate of public necessity and convenience for transmission from July 1, 2025, until May 1, 2026. As the legislation would only apply prospectively, this prohibition will not impact currently proposed transmission projects. However, it could cause a delay in additional transmission development. Given the current status of power generation and resource adequacy, a moratorium on certificating new transmission could exacerbate reliability and cost concerns.

The Public Service Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony for your consideration for bill SB 953. We request a favorable report with support for the amendments detailed above. We look forward to continuing to work with the sponsor to optimize the legislation for productive enactment. Please contact Christina Ochoa, Director of Legislative Affairs at christina.ochoa1@maryland.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Frederick H. Hoover, Chair
Maryland Public Service Commission

SB953 UNF PHI 3.6.25.pdf
Uploaded by: Anne Klase
Position: UNF

March 6, 2025

112 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Oppose – Senate Bill 953 – Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland

Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Delmarva Power & Light Company (Delmarva Power) oppose **Senate Bill 953 – Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland**. Senate Bill 953 establishes the Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland to study and make recommendations on the state's current and future electricity needs. The bill prohibits the Public Service Commission (Commission) from approving the construction or expansion of transmission lines in the state from July 1, 2025 through May 1, 2026.

While Pepco and Delmarva Power are notionally supportive of a collaborative and comprehensive assessment of the state's electricity needs to determine effective and viable solutions, this bill would create substantial delays to critical infrastructure projects and inadvertently further exacerbate the state's resource adequacy challenges.

The provision of the bill that would prevent the Commission from approving construction or expansion of transmission lines from July 1, 2025 through May 1, 2026 would not only directly affect transmission projects, but could also have a significant indirect impact on future energy and capacity prices, ultimately increasing cost for consumers. Such a requirement would delay or cancel future transmission projects and could prevent utilities from constructing the necessary upgrades required to allow new generators to interconnect to the grid and provide much needed electricity to Maryland customers. Maryland is a net importer of generation with two major power plants set to retire. While the bill purports to limit Maryland's reliance on out-of-state electricity imports to no more than 25%, the real impact would exacerbate the resource adequacy challenges that Maryland is already facing. With fewer energy resources available to meet demand, both energy and capacity prices could rise, resulting in Maryland's need to import even more energy to supply its residents and businesses. This is counterproductive to efforts the state is making to identify long-term solutions to effectively address resource adequacy needs.

For these reasons, Pepco and Delmarva Power respectfully urge an unfavorable report for Senate Bill 953.

Valencia McClure | Anne Klase | Allyson Black-Woodson | Poetri Deal | 410 980 5347

BGE_EEE_UNF_SB953 – Construction and Expansion of

Uploaded by: Dytonia Reed
Position: UNF

Position Statement

Oppose
Education, Energy, and Environment
3/6/2025

Senate Bill 953 – Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) opposes Senate Bill 953 – Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland. Senate Bill 953 establishes the Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland to study and make recommendations on the state's current and future electricity needs. The bill prohibits the Public Service Commission (PSC) from approving the construction or expansion of transmission lines in the state from July 1, 2025, through May 1, 2026.

BGE has significant concerns with prohibiting the approval of required transmission projects that are needed to keep the lights on in central Maryland. Specifically, BGE has been directed by PJM, the Regional Transmission Operator (RTO) in which Maryland is a member, to construct a new overhead transmission line on existing BGE ROW from Pennsylvania into Anne Arundel County, Maryland to help mitigate severe, widespread reliability violations caused by the retirement of the coal-burning power plant, Brandon Shores. Maryland must import electricity from Pennsylvania via a new transmission line; otherwise without Brandon Shores Power Plant in service, PJM system studies indicate that the State and the region could face uncontrolled cascading outages. Without timely execution of the required transmission upgrades, the Brandon Shores Power Plant will need to remain in service longer than necessary, resulting in further increases to BGE and Maryland electric customer bills in order to keep the plant operating past its expected retirement date. Senate Bill 953 will directly prevent the timely approval of BGE's CPCN filing for the Brandon Shores Mitigation Project and may delay other BGE projects as well that are needed to maintain the safety and reliability of the transmission grid.

It is important to note that until BGE completes this project, ratepayers are forced to pay a premium rate to Talen Energy, the owner and operator of the Brandon Shores and Wagner power plant, to remain operational to avoid brown-outs. This is known as the Reliability-Must-Run (RMR) agreement. So, the longer it takes BGE to construct this new line, the longer ratepayers will bear this burden.

BGE urges an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 953 due to the disadvantages it brings to the State's reliability and the undue burden placed on ratepayers.

Charles Washington| Brittany Jones | Guy Andes| Dytonia Reed| 410.269.5281

SB0953 (HB1218) - UNF - Construction and Expansion

Uploaded by: Landon Fahrig

Position: UNF

Maryland Energy Administration

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

FROM: MEA

SUBJECT: SB 953 - Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland

DATE: March 6, 2025

MEA Position: UNFAVORABLE

Senate Bill 953 establishes a Task Force to develop a realistic electric plan for Maryland to study & make recommendations on the State's current and future electricity needs and prohibits the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) from approving the construction or expansion of transmission lines in the State from July 1, 2025, through May 1, 2026.

The bill as written poses significant risks to the state's energy infrastructure, affordability, and reliability. The proposed moratorium on the construction and expansion of transmission lines could jeopardize critical projects like the Brandon Shores Mitigation Project, which are essential for maintaining grid reliability in the Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) zone. Delays in this project would extend the use of costly Reliability Must Run (RMR) agreements, increasing electricity costs for Maryland residents.

The bill's directive to limit policy options to in-state nuclear expansion, renewable energy, and transmission upgrades neglects crucial demand-side solutions. Energy efficiency programs and distributed energy resources can reduce demand during peak periods, enhancing reliability and lowering costs.

Additionally, the bill places an undue burden on the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to staff the task force without providing adequate resources. This unfunded mandate could hinder the task force's effectiveness. The exclusion of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Power Plant Research Program further limits the task force's scope and expertise.

For these reasons, MEA urges the committee to issue an **unfavorable report.**

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy manager, at megan.outten@maryland.gov or 443.842.1780.