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*Testimony in Support of HB1532, Utility RELIEF (Reducing Energy Load Inflation for Everyday Families) Act*

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Jason Phillips

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is Jason Phillips, and I am a resident of Montgomery Village, MD. I am writing to express my support for HB1532, Utility RELIEF (Reducing Energy Load Inflation for Everyday Families) Act, which seeks to protect Maryland's farmland from harmful development projects.

### **Personal Introduction**

As a resident of the DMV area who lives in Montgomery County, I have seen firsthand the devastating impacts that poorly planned projects, especially those rushed through without consideration for their environmental impact, can have on our land. Just take one look at Northern Virginia, for example Loudoun County, where countless acres of pristine farmland have been destroyed for energy-sucking, water-hogging, landscape-ruining and audibly intrusive hyperscale data centers.

### **Impact of the Bill**

This bill will defend Maryland's beautiful scenery and productive farmland by preventing unfounded companies like PSEG, under the guidance of PJM, from wantonly deploying over 67 miles of 500kVA power lines and towers across the entire northern portion of our state. This will impact over 400 private properties, cross over the busy I-270 corridor, raise electricity rates for Marylanders and cause countless destruction to the land. It will have no benefit to residents here but impart all of the costs of the project on them.

**Addressing Counterarguments**

Potential objections to this bill might involve opinions in favor of bringing power lines involved in the MPRP, or Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project, from Pennsylvania to the state in the name of improving future power reliability. This is absolutely not what the MPRP intends to do. It will instead destroy over 4,000 acres of MD property to use fossil-fuel sources from Pennsylvania to power Northern Virginia's data centers, backed by powerful corporate interests from out of state.

**Call to Action**

I respectfully urge you to support HB1532, Utility RELIEF (Reducing Energy Load Inflation for Everyday Families) Act and to advocate for its passage to preserve our farmland and protect Maryland's natural heritage.

**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 (954) 536-2097. I appreciate your dedication to serving our community and look forward to seeing your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,  
Jason Phillips