



Testimony in Support of SB0201
Education, Energy & Environment Committee
Hearing Date: February 19, 2026

Submitted by:
Jon Bisset
Executive Director
River Valley Ranch
Carroll County, Maryland

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jon Bisset, and I serve as Executive Director of River Valley Ranch in Carroll County. River Valley Ranch is a year-round Christian camp and retreat center serving more than 9,000 Maryland guests annually, including summer campers, school outdoor education groups, and retreat participants.

I am writing in support of SB0201.

Our ministry operates on preserved, forested land that has been used for youth development and outdoor education for 7+ decades. The proposed Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project would run through land that is actively used for outdoor activities, hiking, horseback riding, environmental learning, and adventure programming. The natural environment is not incidental to our mission. It is central to it.

Large-scale overhead transmission infrastructure would permanently alter the character, usability, and future development potential of areas currently dedicated to serving Maryland youth. Once such infrastructure is approved and constructed, its impact cannot be undone.

Maryland has consistently emphasized the importance of investing in youth development, outdoor education, and mental and physical well-being for young people. Projects that permanently affect land actively used for those purposes deserve the highest level of scrutiny.

SB0201 does not prevent infrastructure development. It strengthens the evidentiary standards and review process before approval is granted. Given the irreversible nature of these projects, requiring more complete information and thorough analysis is both reasonable and responsible.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0201.

Sincerely,

Jon Bisset
Executive Director
River Valley Ranch (RVR)