

Jennifer Teeter
1805 Uniontown Road
Westminster, MD 21158
Jennyteeter@comcast.net
443-340-2070

March 23, 2026

RE: House Bill 1532

Dear Speaker Pena-Melnyk and Delegation co-sponsors:

I am writing in support of House Bill 1532. I am a concerned citizen of Carroll County impacted by the MPRP proposed transmission line and a Board Member of Stop MPRP, Inc, a not-for-profit organization educating impacted community members. I greatly appreciate the Committee addressing these issues related to thoughtful planning for data center load, impacts to rate payers and transmission infrastructure growth and oversight.

I am constantly reminded of how finite our open green spaces are and the importance of contiguous blocks of open farmland are to supporting our food supply and the future of the number 1 industry in our state. I was wondering if you would consider strengthening language in the bill related to Transmission applicants exhausting the modeling of alternatives including use of transmission and transportation corridors prior to allowing use of conserved and preserved land. High voltage transmission lines do permanent damage to these environments, and they can be erected on brownfields and existing transportation corridors where these finite resources do not exist.

You have an opportunity in this bill to safeguard lands our forefathers developed programs to protect, in perpetuity. Additionally, if transmission projects abrogate properties in programs such as MALPF and Rural Legacy that are designed to protect increasing amounts of acreage to meet local and state Master Plan goals and waste the \$1.3 billion in tax payer dollars invested, we are risking our local food supply chain and further damaging the local economy. Some of the largest agritourism businesses in the state (Baughers and Gaver Farms for example) will be crossed by the MPRP transmission line, subjecting them to loss of USDA pick your own certification due to avian flu risk (birds roosting on transmission lines overhead) and clearcutting and spraying operations with herbicide and endangering visitors to shock from stray voltage and metal buildings and fencing, rendering them unable to afford their business insurance. Soil on farms will be compacted by construction and ongoing maintenance equipment and access roads. Precious farm soil rendered unusable. There are so many reasons that Transmission projects should not be permitted on Agricultural property it is impossible to list them all here.

The MALPF Chair, Michelle Cable, stated in her testimony in the Transource high voltage Transmission Line Case before the Public Service Commission that pristine farmland that applies to the program will be prioritized for approval ahead of farms that have power lines. This will in fact destroy farmers confidence in these programs and due to the devaluation of the remaining property value it will destroy farmers ability to obtain credit to grow their business.

You have an opportunity to protect our food supply and finite farmland. I urge you to amend and approve this important Bill.

Most sincerely,
Jenny Teeter