



Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony on: Senate Bill 201 – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Organization: Mobilize Frederick

Submitting: Kathy Kinsey

Chair, Government Affairs Committee

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 19, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 201 – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies.

Mobilize Frederick, a nonprofit community advocacy organization formed to assist with implementation of innovative local solutions to address climate change, urges the Committee to issue a **favorable** report on this bill, which would require consideration, and where appropriate, use of advanced transmission technologies to increase the capacity of existing and future transmission lines.

At a time when Marylanders across the State are facing sharply rising energy costs and strained grid capacity, deployment of grid-enhancing tools and other advanced transmission technologies that would optimize and increase transmission line capacity, efficiency, or reliability is vitally important. Advanced transmission technologies can reduce or delay the need to build costly new transmission lines at rate-payer expense and help to ensure that ratepayer dollars are used as cost-effectively as possible.

To ensure consideration and use of these tools, Senate Bill 201 requires developers of new overhead transmission lines to demonstrate how they considered the use and costs of advanced transmission technologies and other alternatives to construction of a new transmission line as part of the required application to the Public Service Commission for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN).

The bill further requires regular capacity assessments of the transmission system, and the development of implementation plans to address line congestion. Starting this year and

every four years thereafter, owners or operators of overhead transmission lines are required to submit a report to the Public Service Commission that:

1. Identifies service areas that experienced line congestion during the previous three-year period and service areas that are projected to experience congestion in the next five years;
2. Assesses the feasibility and costs associated with the use of advanced transmission technologies or other alternatives to construction of new transmission lines to address transmission congestion; and
3. Where feasible, includes a proposed plan for the use of advanced transmission technologies to address areas of congestion.

In this time of unprecedented growth in electricity demand, multiple solutions are needed to ensure grid capacity. Evaluation and use of advanced transmission technologies is an effective strategic planning tool that promotes grid reliability and cost control and helps to ensure the most economically efficient use of ratepayer dollars. Moreover, advanced transmission technologies offer grid flexibility that allows easier connection with renewable energy sources, thereby reducing the need for fossil fuel derived generation.

For all the foregoing reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to issue a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 201.

Sincerely,

KATHY KINSEY
Chair, Government Affairs Committee

cc: Karen Cannon
Executive Director