

February 19, 2026

FAVORABLE - SB0201 - Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Healthy Climate Maryland strongly supports SB0201. We are supporting legislation this session that shifts the state away from fossil fuels to clean energy. Our continued dependence on fossil fuels harms our health through [climate change](#) and [air pollution](#). These problems affect us all, but the effects are most severe in low-income and minority communities.

Maryland households and businesses are also facing a rapid rise in utility bills. This is a growing concern for many, especially those with low or moderate incomes. For some, this may lead to difficult choices on whether to cut back on heat in the winter or on other necessities like medications or food.

Renewable energy is now the cheapest and cleanest energy. Making the transition to renewable energy will cut air pollution, decrease climate change, and help resolve the affordability crisis. We need increased transmission to get energy where it's needed to meet Maryland's growing electricity demand. It is essential to do so quickly and without imposing additional burdens on ratepayers.

Advanced transmission technologies (ATTs) can play a key role. ATTs include grid-enhancing technologies, high-performing conductors, and storage. These technologies can make our existing grid more efficient. They are cost-effective and can be deployed more rapidly than building new transmission lines. ATTs can reduce the need for new transmission lines, which, in turn, reduces land use impacts while improving grid reliability. ATTs can also help integrate renewable resources into the grid. Those resources are the least expensive and cleanest sources of the power we need and can be added to the grid much faster than a new gas or nuclear power plant.

SB0201 requires utilities and other transmission owners to explore and report on advanced technology alternatives when applying to the Public Service Commission for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to develop new transmission lines. In addition, owners would be required to report every 4 years whether ATTs could reduce transmission congestion costs for ratepayers.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB0201. Thank you.

[About Healthy Climate Maryland](#)



United by a shared commitment to the health and well-being of all Marylanders, Healthy Climate Maryland is a coalition of dedicated public health and medical professionals that seeks to address climate change and environmental challenges by focusing on their impacts on public health. We are working to educate, advocate, and build strong partnerships towards a healthier, more sustainable future for Maryland.