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RE: Senate Bill 0584

Dear Senator Jennings and Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 0584. I am a concerned citizen 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 this significant problem that results in citizens being completely unaware of a project with devastating impact on their property, violating their rights to due process to intervene at the Public Service Commission.

The construction company, PSEG, defined the term “adjacent landowner” in the most narrow way in their application. This limits the number of citizens who would intervene in the case at the Public Service Commission. Roger Trudeau, the PJM Manager of Corporate Real Estate, defined adjacent in his testimony of October 17, 2024. He stated letters were sent to landowners within the right of way and those adjacent, within 275 feet of the center line. This means that homes within 276 or more feet of the center line of the transmission line right of way may never be notified about this project. This is a violation of citizens opportunities to otherwise be involved in planning and zoning issues in their community and contradictory to the PSEG Siting Analysis Criteria that states under Social Criteria that they must analyze residential buildings within 200 feet of, or within 500 feet of the transmission right of way. 500 feet is referenced as the zone of potential impact, the buffer zone, that must be considered in applications. If they are required to analyze land within 500 feet of the right way and impacts within that area, why are the landowners omitted from that process?

While most of us would define adjacent landowner as a landowner with property abutting the property in the right of way, there is no Maryland COMAR definition of adjacent to a transmission line project. It allows the construction company to select the “impacted” landowners.

In February 2025, PSEG filed an Update to the ERD and Appendix to the application. This further defined impacted landowners who will be located on the required Access Roads PSEG must build for initial construction and for permanent access to the towers and lines. These roads will be used as long as the line is in use to inspect and maintain the line and clearcut vegetation and use herbicides. They provided a detailed description of the construction of these roads which add 28 miles, 81 additional acres to the project, 65 acres of which is farmland, rendering it no longer tillable in perpetuity. The most important part of this application Appendix is that some of the access roads go through properties that are neither under the right of way, or adjacent. These are landowners directly impacted by only an access road. Many of these landowners have never been notified because there is no requirement to notify landowners on access roads. However, it is the right thing to do.

As this Bill indicates, CPCN Applications must require notification of not only impacted landowners, but those who are adjacent and provide a reasonable definition of adjacent as either an adjoining property sharing a property line or within 500 feet of the right of way. The company must provide evidence of notifying directly impacted, adjacent AND those landowners whose property is used for an access road.

This Bill should apply to any CPCN Application that has yet to be approved by the Public Service Commission as of it's effective date.

Thank you for your attention to these issues and moving forward toward passage of this important bill. Without it, construction companies are taking advantage of the rights of citizens defending the most valuable asset, their legacy for children and their estate used to fund retirement, senior care and credit to grow their business. You have an opportunity in this bill to level the playing field for those you represent.

Most sincerely,

Jenny Teeter