

Testimony on: SB0201 – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment

Submitting: Rhonda Kranz

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 19, 2026

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in support of SB0201. I have lived in Maryland for 30 years and am concerned that Maryland address its increasing need for new transmission lines thoughtfully with climate goals and ratepayers in mind.

SB0201 would save ratepayers money, reduce the impacts of new transmission lines, and allow more renewable energy sources to come online instead of relying on polluting, greenhouse gas (GHG) producing fossil fuel sources. This bill will move us closer to achieving our net zero GHG emission goals, all while helping Marylanders have a more affordable, healthier, and reliable electricity grid.

It requires utilities and other transmission owners to analyze and report on advanced transmission technology (ATT) alternatives when applying to Public Service Commission (PSC) for a permit (CPCN) to develop new transmission lines. In addition, they would be required to report every 4 years whether advanced transmission technologies could decrease the cost of congestion for ratepayers.

Marylanders have been trying to deal with enormous increases in utility bills at the same time as our electric grid is out of date and needs expansion. New transmission lines are expensive, and issues of where to site them, how many, who benefits, and who pays make them controversial. Grid enhancing technologies and advanced conductors could increase energy carrying capacity by up to 110% without requiring new transmission lines. They can reduce the risk of wildfires are faster to deploy (3 years or less vs 10 years), cheaper, cleaner, more flexible, and less socially disruptive than constructing new transmission power lines running through private property. In addition, ATT's avoid the environmental injustice that results from fossil fuel powered generating plants, which frequently are located in low-income, minority neighborhoods where excessive sources of pollution already exist.

For these reasons, I urge a FAVORABLE report for SB0201.