



TESTIMONY FOR SB0201

Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies

Bill Sponsor: Senator Brooks

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0201 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The need for power – to fuel our homes and our cars, power up our devices, and allow us to use AI – is ever growing. We simply have not been able to keep up. Our grid is being strained, and the utility companies are always at work expanding it. So far, it's cost us a fortune to keep up.

What about a different idea? What if we were to USE technology that already exists to make our grid more efficient and provide us with the power we need without the constant investment in new transmission lines?

That grid-enhancing technology, Alternative Transmission Technologies (ATIs), includes such things as:

- Dynamic Line Ratings, which measure the ambient conditions and temperature of a line to determine its real-time rated capacity. The capacity of lines can increase up to 50% in cold or windy conditions over the conservatively established static capacity rating.
- Advanced Power Flow Control, which is hardware and software that can reroute power flows to optimize line utilization, avoiding overflows of electricity in some areas and underutilization in others.
- Topology Optimization, which is software that is used to track the best route and combination of lines for transferring power. The software can then proactively alter grid topology to better control power flows.
- Advanced Reconductoring, which replaces old conductors on existing transmission lines with new, higher-capacity conductors that can enhance the overall performance of the line.

It would seem silly to ignore these technologies in order to opt for spending tons more money to achieve the same thing.

This bill will require transmission owners to identify areas of congestion in our transmission lines over the past 3 years and to also identify what they expect in the next 5 years. They are to then identify the feasibility of installing ATIs and what the relative cost/benefit would be to using traditional methods of expanding capacity. It also would require anyone who seeks a Certificate for Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to demonstrate to the PSC that they have done this analysis and included it in their proposal.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.