

RE: SB 584 – Favorable

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 584 due to serious concerns about transparency, inadequate notification, and confusion surrounding the process for protecting my family's property rights and safety.

In 1978, my 79-year-old widowed grandmother was pressured into signing a document relating to the right of way with BGE across her farm. This land was her legacy, and she could never have contemplated what it would eventually become. Today, massive monopoles carrying 12 visible transmission wires stretch across our family farm. While utility descriptions may minimize the scope of these installations, the physical and visual impact on our property is substantial and undeniable.

The expansion and modification of infrastructure on our land has occurred with little clarity about our rights, limited meaningful notice, and no clear explanation of how landowners can raise concerns or challenge decisions. The burden should not fall on families to decipher complex regulatory processes in order to protect their own property.

Beyond the visual and agricultural impacts, we have concerns about safety, electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure, and wildfire risk. Our EMF concerns hit close to home because my own brother had childhood leukemia which is linked in studies from the WHO, NIH, EPA, and National Cancer Institute to exposure to high voltage power lines. Landowners deserve transparency, timely written notice, and a clearly defined process to be heard before additional infrastructure is installed or expanded.

Just as my grandmother felt she had no choice decades ago, our family now feels similarly strong-armed, without clear communication or meaningful opportunity to engage. SB 584 is necessary to ensure that affected landowners receive proper notice, understand their rights, and have a fair opportunity to participate in decisions that permanently alter their property.

Our family received no written notice of their rights to intervene in the CPCN process for the Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation Project. Only through community grassroots efforts were we able to understand the process months after the deadline had passed.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 584.

Sincerely,
William Zink
Kingsville, MD