

## SUPPORT SB201

### Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and honorable members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

I ask for your support of SB201 and its efforts to strengthen requirements for approving overhead transmission lines and require additional information and evidence before the PSC can grant a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

PJM's 2025 load forecast expects electricity demand to climb by **32 gigawatts (GW)** by 2030 — a **21 percent increase** in just five years, with the largest share of new load growth — especially from data centers — is concentrated in *Northern Virginia*, not Maryland. The MPRP is primarily designed to move power *through* Maryland, not to it.

A more balanced path forward includes:

- **Require data centers to be self-sufficient for energy, water, and resources.**
- **Use renewables where they make sense:** rooftops, brownfields, and degraded lands.
- **Modernize existing infrastructure** to move more power without taking more land.
  - PJM could **triple the capacity of its existing network** by replacing old aluminum conductors with next-generation designs such as **TS Conductor's carbon-core cables**. These advanced lines: (1) Carry **three times more current**, (2) Cut **energy losses by up to 50%**, and (3) Fit on **existing towers and rights-of-way**.
  - For Maryland's **2,200 miles of high-voltage lines**, that upgrade would deliver the same power as building **6,700 miles of new lines**, with **no new corridors and no land-taking**.
- **Site firm generation** (gas, nuclear, or future clean thermal technologies) near major loads or at data-center campuses to ensure reliability.
- **Protecting farmland, forests, and wildlife corridors is as essential to our energy future as decarbonizing the grid.** Smarter siting and upgrades to existing infrastructure allow us to expand clean energy without destroying the very landscapes we aim to protect.

With thoughtful siting, modernized infrastructure, and balanced investments in firm and renewable power, our region can achieve energy reliability **without sacrificing the farmland, forests, and communities that sustain our region.**

**Thank you for your favorable vote for SB201,**  
Lara Westdorp  
Frederick County resident