

SB0201_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0201 – FAVORABLE

Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0201, Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

PJM is failing Maryland and costing Maryland consumers. As documented by the Maryland PIRG Foundation:¹

Between rising delivery and supply costs, Maryland electric utility customers are struggling. Decisions by PJM, the regional grid operator, are a significant contributor to rising bills. ... PJM has decided upon unnecessarily raising rates for Maryland energy consumers. PJM is proposing Maryland electric customers pay for new transmission lines to bring power into Virginia. Traditionally, transmission costs are paid for by the stakeholders who are responsible for the increased transmission needs.

The Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) is opposed due to significant environmental damage, the destruction of protected farmland, and the use of eminent domain to seize private property. The proposed 70-mile high-voltage line, opposed by residents and officials in Baltimore, Carroll, and Frederick counties, threatens forests, wetlands, and historic sites while critics argue it lacks transparency and community input.² Overhead transmission lines should not occur.

There must be a better way to manage the transmission of electricity in Maryland that will not involve increased costs for customers and harm the environment and harm people whose life will be affected by the proposed transmission corridor.

This bill will take positive steps to find that path by altering the definition of "qualified generator lead line" for provisions of law regarding certificates of public convenience and necessity; requiring an applicant for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction of an overhead transmission line to include certain information in its application; requiring the Public Service Commission to consider certain evidence before taking action on a certain application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity; etc.

It is one of many proactive steps Maryland should be taking to get a handle on utility costs.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass SB0201.

¹ <https://pirg.org/maryland/foundation/updates/decisions-by-regional-grid-operator-pjm-hurting-electric-customers/>

² Google AI Search "why reject the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project"