

BENJAMIN BROOKS
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Energy Subcommittee

Chair, Joint Electric Universal
Service Program Workgroup



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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 201
Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
February 19, 2026

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on SB 201, Public Utilities- Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies. SB 201 updates Maryland’s public utilities law to modernize how high-voltage transmission infrastructure is evaluated and built. The bill expands the definition of qualified transmission lines and requires applicants seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for overhead transmission lines to include detailed analysis considering advanced transmission technologies—such as grid-enhancing tools, high-performance conductors, and other innovations that can increase capacity, efficiency, reliability, and resilience of the electric grid, before new construction is approved. It also directs the Public Service Commission to consider this information and requires periodic reporting by transmission owners on congestion, costs, and feasibility of advanced technologies.

Maryland families and businesses are facing high and rising utility rates, driven by infrastructure costs, capacity constraints, and regional grid challenges. Modern grid enhancements can often increase transmission capacity and reliability without the time, expense, and land impacts of new overhead lines, reducing long-term costs for ratepayers and improving system efficiency.

The Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP), a proposed 70-mile transmission line intended to address regional load growth, highlights why SB 201’s focus on alternatives is so timely. Projects like the MPRP involve significant construction costs and potential impacts on communities and landowners. By ensuring that advanced technologies and alternative approaches are evaluated up front, SB 201 promotes smarter planning that can avoid unnecessary expense and delay while still meeting the State’s reliability needs.

SB 201 fosters a more efficient, cost-conscious, and forward-looking grid planning process, requires meaningful analysis of emerging transmission solutions, and better protects Maryland

ratepayers by encouraging the use of technologies that can deliver increased capacity and reliability with fewer rate impacts.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 201.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the closing phrase "With kindest regards,".

Benjamin Brooks