



SB 201-Support

Anjali Patel

David Gardiner and Associates

anjali@dgardiner.com, 215-805-0559

SB 201 SUPPORT

Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Education, Energy, and the Environment
February 17th, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

I am a Montgomery County resident and Vice President for Clean Energy at [David Gardiner and Associates](https://www.dgardiner.com), a strategic consulting firm focused on identifying and advancing proactive policy solutions to reduce emissions from the highest emitting sectors and improve access to clean energy. I am writing in support of SB201 as it will help advance a stronger electric system and support affordable rates.

Electricity is an essential service, needed for our society to function and to safeguard life and property. Consequently, it must be reliable, affordable, and resilient. But Maryland residents and businesses have been confronting ever-rising electric costs—an issue that is becoming more dire with projected generation capacity shortfalls in the PJM region. There are many reasons for the increase in costs, but two of the most significant are tied directly to a lack of transmission capacity in the state. The first reason, which other PJM states are also confronting, is that new, lower cost generation has been impeded from interconnecting and serving load due to the limited availability of “free space” on the transmission network. This concern is particularly problematic in the current moment when demand on the system is growing exponentially and aging, uneconomic power plants are seeking to retire. Relatedly, on a Maryland-specific front, when Brandon Shores—an uneconomic coal plant—sought to retire, it triggered reliability violations because there are transmission constraints that block other generation from flowing into the zones that primarily receive power from that plant. This resulted in a costly agreement, borne by ratepayers, to continue to run the plant while new transmission is being planned and constructed.

Maryland needs more transmission capacity to serve our residents and maintain a strong economy. This requires both building new transmission and maximizing the capability of the current system through the integration of advanced transmission technologies. SB201 addresses both needs and should be passed to facilitate speedier implementation of transmission solutions in the state.



With respect to building new transmission, siting and permitting are a primary barrier to timely constructing needed projects. SB201's inclusion in the CPCN process of information about transmission route selection and community outreach can improve proactive community coordination, mitigating siting concerns and expediting this process.

With respect to maximizing capabilities of the current system, advanced transmission technologies are "low-hanging fruit," meaning they should be less complicated to add to the system compared to building new projects. But under existing utility rate structures, there are few business incentives for utilities and transmission owners to voluntarily implement widespread use of these technologies. Further, because the federal government and states share jurisdiction over transmission, and alternative transmission technologies may not be the most cost-effective solution under every situation, there may be jurisdictional and technical challenges related to mandating that a utility or transmission owner invest in a particular technology. SB201 strikes an appropriate balance to these concerns by using existing state processes to foster opportunities to identify where advanced transmission technologies can improve system capabilities and mitigate potential rate impacts from transmission system congestion.

Thank you for your time.

I urge a favorable report on SB201.