

Testimony on: SB0598 - Electric Companies - Cost Containment Plans - Requirement (Securing Affordable, Valuable Investments in Next Generation Grid Solutions) (SAVINGS Act)

Submitting: Rhonda Kranz

Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 5, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing my written testimony in support of SB0598, the “SAVINGS Act”. I have lived in Maryland for 30 years and am concerned that Maryland address its increasing need for new transmission lines thoughtfully with climate goals and ratepayers in mind.

Maryland needs an upgrade to its aging grid system. It needs to be cost effective, well planned, and with oversight by the State. SB0598 is a big step in this direction. It requires electric companies to incorporate advanced energy solutions which will save energy and reduce risks of blackouts. These technologies could include the ability for grid operators to avoid congested areas by reroute power flows, and even advanced conductors that can manage and store energy.

One of the most significant parts of the bill is oversight of the electric company actions by the Public Service Commission. The act includes oversight by requiring the electric companies to develop and submit a cost containment for electric distribution and transmission by the end of the year and to submit progress reports every three years. And the Commission will be able to impose penalties if the plans are not met.

Ultimately, it will save citizens from significant rate increases by reducing pressure on supply prices and spending on grid infrastructure. It will also address a problem involving a utility bill’s electricity delivery costs which include, among other things, capital expenditures that utilities invest in poles, wires, transformers, and other equipment.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to issue a FAVORABLE report.