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SB201 Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies

Dear Senators Brooks,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed legislation that would alter the definition of “qualified generator lead line” under provisions related to certificates of public convenience and necessity (CPCN), as well as strengthen requirements for overhead transmission line applications and oversight.

These amendments serve an important public interest by:

1. **Enhancing Transparency and Accountability** – Requiring applicants to provide detailed, specific information in CPCN applications ensures that all stakeholders, including local governments and the public, have a clear understanding of the project’s scope, environmental impact, and technological considerations.
2. **Promoting Informed Decision-Making** – Mandating that the Public Service Commission consider comprehensive evidence before final action will help balance the need for reliable energy infrastructure with environmental stewardship, community safety, and technological innovation.
3. **Encouraging Modernization and Reliability** – By requiring owners and operators to submit regular reports and by recognizing advanced transmission technologies, the legislation supports the modernization of Maryland’s energy grid, improves resilience, and facilitates the integration of renewable energy sources.
4. **Strengthening Local and State Collaboration** – Ensuring that relevant local government units receive timely application materials fosters cooperation, reduces conflicts, and aligns infrastructure development with community planning goals.

In an era where energy reliability, environmental responsibility, and technological advancement must go hand in hand, these provisions represent a thoughtful and necessary step forward. I urge you to fully support and pass SB201 to ensure Maryland’s energy infrastructure remains safe, efficient, and forward-looking.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to serving the public interest.

Sincerely,
Kenneth Miller