

## SUPPORT SB92

### Electric Company Contracts, Capacity Market Models, and Regional 3 Transmission Organizations – Studies

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and honorable members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

I ask for your support of SB92 and its efforts to require Maryland to study alternatives to PJM's capacity market model and consider options including withdrawal or multistate restructuring.

The authorities provided in SB92 grants additional flexibility for Maryland to choose electrical options that are favorable for both its residents and resources. It may also allow for discussions of more balanced options to meet future energy demands such as:

- **Require data centers to be self-sufficient for energy, water, and resources.**
- **Use renewables where they make sense:** rooftops, brownfields, and degraded lands.
- **Modernize existing infrastructure** to move more power without taking more land.
  - PJM could **triple the capacity of its existing network** by replacing old aluminum conductors with next-generation designs such as **TS Conductor's carbon-core cables**. These advanced lines: (1) Carry **three times more current**, (2) Cut **energy losses by up to 50%**, and (3) Fit on **existing towers and rights-of-way**.
  - For Maryland's **2,200 miles of high-voltage lines**, that upgrade would deliver the same power as building **6,700 miles of new lines**, with **no new corridors and no land-taking**.
- **Site firm generation** (gas, nuclear, or future clean thermal technologies) near major loads or at data-center campuses to ensure reliability.
- **Protecting farmland, forests, and wildlife corridors is as essential to our energy future as decarbonizing the grid.** Smarter siting and upgrades to existing infrastructure allow us to expand clean energy without destroying the very landscapes we aim to protect.

With SB92 we can add to the conversation thoughtful siting, modernized infrastructure, and balanced investments in firm and renewable power, our region can achieve energy reliability **without sacrificing the farmland, forests, and communities that sustain our region.**

**Thank you for your favorable vote for SB92,**

Lara Westdorp

Frederick County resident