SB201_FAV_DGA_Anjali Patel.pdf
Uploaded by: Anjali Patel
Position: FAV

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, 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.

SB201_BrooksB.pdf
Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks
Position: FAV

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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Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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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,

Benjamin Brooks

SB0201_FAV_CCANAF.pdf
Uploaded by: Brittany Baker
Position: FAV

TESTIMONY OF
BRITTANY BAKER
MARYLAND DIRECTOR
—
MIKE TIDWELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HB0040- PUBLIC UTILITIES- TRANSMISSION LINES- ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES

FAVORABLE

FEBRUARY 19TH, 2026 AT 1:00 PM

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

Transmission infrastructure is a vital asset that must be built to secure Maryland's energy future. In fact, transmission infrastructure is needed to ensure a least cost energy future for the entire PJM region, not only in Maryland.

However, grid enhancing technologies have the ability to maximize our current transmission infrastructure and relieve grid congestion in advance of new lines being constructed. According to RMI, grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) could save an estimated $1 billion in reduced costs for interconnection customers across the PJM region between now and 2027.[1] These savings trickle down in the energy economy lowering costs for ratepayers. Further, even without building new transmission lines, GETs can reduce grid congestion allowing for 6.6 gigawatts of additional solar, wind, and battery storage projects to interconnect in the region by 2027.[1] These cheap, new, clean energy resources would increase energy reliability, put downward pressure on rates, and allow for reasonable new load growth.

The oversight and planning process for adding these vital technologies to the grid currently has significant gaps. PJM has taken some steps to implement FERC order 1920- yet, this is not enough. Requiring the Maryland Public Service Commission to consider GETs as part of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process will ensure that Maryland stakeholders, including the General Assembly and the public, are able to confirm that we are not missing any opportunities to integrate these vital resources into our grid infrastructure.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0201.

[1] https://rmi.org/insight/analyzing-gets-as-a-tool-for-increasing-interconnection-throughput-from-pjms-queue/

ATTs Senate.pdf
Uploaded by: Bryan Dunning
Position: FAV

Center for Progressive Reform

February 19, 2026

Testimony of Bryan Dunning
Senior Policy Analyst
Center for Progressive Reform

Before the Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Requesting a Favorable Report on SB0201: Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB0201. Passage of this bill will result in the state of Maryland taking concrete steps to advance a more reliable and affordable grid for the state. Functionally this means lower costs for transmission borne by Maryland ratepayers, strengthening grid reliability in Maryland, increasing the likelihood of new generation assets coming online in the state, and critically, and achieving this in a substantially shorter time windows than traditional new transmission construction.

Defining advanced transmission technologies (ATTs) broadly to include not only both "grid enhancing technologies" (GETS) and "high-performance conductors", but also including within the ATT definition "energy storage used for transmission" directs developers and the Maryland Public Service Commission (MD PSC) to utilize a suite of tools that will substantially improve the capacity of Maryland's grid. This allows for alternatives to traditional transmission construction that will maximize existing transmission infrastructure. This includes both hardware and software upgrades that have comparatively lower capital costs and utilizing storage to advance avoided transmission which will have additional benefits to strengthening the Maryland grid.

Requiring analysis for the integration of ATTs in an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for overhead transmission lines will give MD PSC the authority needed to ensure that new transmission projects in Maryland are evaluated to ensure that they are least-cost, and most effective for Maryland transmission projects.

Finally, by requiring transmission owners to submit to the commission an analysis of recent, current, and projected (within five years) transmission congestion – *paired with an analysis of deploying ATTs in identified congested regions* – will greatly strengthen grid planning and provide a mechanism for reducing areas of existing transmission congestion. This is crucial to work proactively to implement least-cost interventions to avoid issues with known congestion risk, rather than relying on reactive cost-intensive emergency upgrades to address pending issues only once they have risen to the level of an emergency.

Such evaluation and planning will work to harmonize state efforts with updates regional transmission planning at PJM, and drive lowered costs in the state and region for transmission network upgrades. This point is critical if Maryland wishes to online new generation, as across the PJM region, new generation assets that have finally cleared the interconnection queue after many years of review are now facing prohibitive network upgrade costs that can preclude the project from moving forward.

Planning and implementation of cost-effective solutions through ATTs maximizes the capabilities of the Maryland grid, and is crucial to meet the challenges of an affordable and reliable energy future. The Center for Progressive Reform accordingly requests that the Environment and Transportation Committee issue a favorable report on SB0201.

Sincerely,

Bryan Dunning
Senior Policy Analysist
Center for Progressive Reform

SB0201_Public_Utilities_Transmission_Lines_Advance
Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante
Position: FAV

MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE COALITION

TESTIMONY FOR SB0201
Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies

Bill Sponsor: Senator Brooks
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0201 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The need for power – to fuel our homes and our cars, power up our devices, and allow us to use AI – is ever growing. We simply have not been able to keep up. Our grid is being strained, and the utility companies are always at work expanding it. So far, it's cost us a fortune to keep up.

What about a different idea? What if we were to USE technology that already exists to make our grid more efficient and provide us with the power we need without the constant investment in new transmission lines?

That grid-enhancing technology, Alternative Transmission Technologies (ATIs), includes such things as:

- Dynamic Line Ratings, which measure the ambient conditions and temperature of a line to determine its real-time rated capacity. The capacity of lines can increase up to 50% in cold or windy conditions over the conservatively established static capacity rating.
- Advanced Power Flow Control, which is hardware and software that can reroute power flows to optimize line utilization, avoiding overflows of electricity in some areas and underutilization in others.
- Topology Optimization, which is software that is used to track the best route and combination of lines for transferring power. The software can then proactively alter grid topology to better control power flows.
- Advanced Reconductoring, which replaces old conductors on existing transmission lines with new, higher-capacity conductors that can enhance the overall performance of the line.

It would seem silly to ignore these technologies in order to opt for spending tons more money to achieve the same thing.

This bill will require transmission owners to identify areas of congestion in our transmission lines over the past 3 years and to also identify what they expect in the next 5 years. They are to then identify the feasibility of installing ATIs and what the relative cost/benefit would be to using traditional methods of expanding capacity. It also would require anyone who seeks a Certificate for Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to demonstrate to the PSC that they have done this analysis and included it in their proposal.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

HB0040 & SB0201 OPC Testimony in Senate.pdf
Uploaded by: David Lapp
Position: FAV

DAVID S. LAPP
PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

WILLIAM F. FIELDS
DEPUTY PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

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BRANDI NIELAND
DIRECTOR, CONSUMER
ASSISTANCE UNIT

CARISSA RALBOVSKY
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

BILL NO.:	Senate Bill 0201/House Bill 0040 – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies
COMMITTEE:	Education, Energy, and the Environment Environment and Transportation
HEARING DATE:	February 19, 2026 (EEE) February 3, 2026 (ENT)
SPONSOR:	Senators Brooks, Hettleman, and West Delegate Charkoudian
POSITION:	Favorable

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The Office of People's Counsel (OPC) respectfully offers the following comments in support of SB 201/HB 40, which seeks to incorporate the use of advanced transmission technologies (ATTs) and other alternatives into transmission planning and ultimately reduce costs to customers.

Specifically, SB 201/HB 40 would require each owner or operator of an overhead transmission line to demonstrate to the Public Service Commission that they have considered the use of ATTs and other alternatives (1) as part of an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN), primarily required for construction of a new transmission line; and (2) in a regular report that identifies areas of transmission congestion, projected or actual costs of the congestion, and the feasibility of using ATTs or other alternative means of addressing transmission congestion at a lower cost to customers.

ATTs encompass a host of technologies including:

- high performance conductors, which allow for increased line capacity, higher transmission efficiency, and reduced thermal sag;
- storage as a transmission asset, which substitutes batteries for new transmission lines and can enable faster and cheaper transmission system upgrades than traditional transmission lines; and

- grid enhancing technologies (GETs), which squeeze more performance out of existing transmission assets using advanced power flow controls, dynamic line ratings, and topology optimization.

ATTs can increase the useful life of existing transmission assets, decrease congestion costs, allow new generation to interconnect more quickly and more cheaply, defer expensive transmission upgrades, and enable transmission system expansion with less disturbance of previously unused land.

ATTs can enable more rapid deployment of transmission capacity upgrades that are required for new generation to interconnect to the grid. Some projects drop out of the PJM interconnection queue because once they are studied, they are required to pay for significant transmission system upgrades that will take years to construct. By enabling cheaper and more rapid transmission system upgrades, ATTs support generation interconnection at lower cost and more quickly. One recent study found that use of GETs in five PJM states could allow an additional 6 gigawatts of new capacity to come online within the next three years.[1]

ATTs can also decrease land use concerns. Storage as a transmission asset can "pre-flow" energy over existing lines so that the line can functionally deliver more energy than the maximum line rating at times of peak demand. While current PJM rules do not allow storage to act as a transmission asset, such a framework has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in other regions and the policy has been studied by PJM.[2] Similarly, advanced conductors unlock the possibility that lines with higher ratings can use existing transmission line routes and towers, or allow new transmission builds to have smaller footprints, thus limiting the need to build on new land.

ATTs can provide significant savings for transmission costs. For example, evaluations of ATTs deployed in the Southwest Power Pool—another regional transmission organization that stretches from North Dakota to Oklahoma—found that GETs increased the utilization level of certain high voltage transmission lines by 16 percent.[3] As amended, however, the bill only requires reporting on any ATT solutions a utility, in fact, has studied; it does not require a study of any additional ATT solutions that the utility has not considered. The bill's added value is informational, by providing a reporting mechanism that could give additional insights to the PSC in its CPCN hearings rather than necessarily spurring adoption of ATTs that had not been considered.

This bill takes an important step toward maximizing the utility of existing transmission infrastructure in Maryland and is likely to prevent unnecessary investments in new infrastructure that could prove costly to ratepayers.

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[1] Katie Mulvaney et. al., *GETting Interconnected in PJM*, RMI (2024).
[2] *See* Storage as a Transmission Asset Issue Details, PJM Interconnection, LLC.
[3] Brattle Group, *Building a Better Grid* (Apr. 20, 2023) at 5.

Recommendation: OPC requests a favorable committee report on SB 201/HB 40.

Testimony on SB0201 Advanced Transmission Technolo

Uploaded by: Debbie Cohn

Position: FAV

Committees:	**Education, Energy and the Environment**
Testimony on:	**SB0201- Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies**
Submitting:	**Deborah A. Cohn**
Position:	**Favorable**
Hearing Date:	**February 19, 2026**

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of SB0201, Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies. As a longstanding Montgomery County resident, I am concerned about electricity reliability and affordability. SB0201 addresses both of these qualities as Maryland modernizes its electric grid.

Maryland needs to modernize its grid to meet rising electricity demand, integrate less expensive clean energy sources and ensure resource adequacy and reliability. Upgrading the grid is inevitably very expensive. To minimize ratepayer costs, Maryland must ensure it does not overbuild the grid, takes advantage of cost-effective advanced transmission technologies and provides the Public Service Commission (PSC) the tools it needs to minimize costs to ratepayers. SB0201 is designed to achieve these goals.

What are Advanced Transmission Technologies: Advanced transmission technologies (ATTs) include grid-enhancing technologies (such as dynamic line rating, advanced power flow control, and topology optimization), reconductoring of existing lines with high-performance conductors, and energy storage techniques that can be used as transmission. ATTs can be deployed more quickly and improve the capacity, efficiency, reliability and resilience of new and existing lines, typically at lower cost than traditional upgrades or construction of conventional transmission lines. ATTs thus buy time until high technology transmission lines, where needed, can be installed.

Strengthening the Hand of the PSC in Evaluating Specific Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity: Because publically owned utilities have a monopoly and earn a rate of return on infrastructure investments, ratepayers must rely on the PSC to ensure that utilities are considering all cost-effective alternatives to new transmission capacity. SB0201 strengthens the PSC's hand, making clear that applicants for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to build a transmission line would need, in addition to providing information on the project's environmental impact, also to demonstrate that their internal planning processes had evaluated (i) alternatives to the proposed line, including alternative routing options, (ii) the use of ATTs, distribution-level technologies or modifications that could avoid construction of the transmission line, (iii) whether integration of the transmission and distribution system could reduce the need for the proposed new transmission line, (iv) the cost to ratepayers, (v) the impact of strategies to increase customer demand response and energy efficiency improvements, and (vi) the proposal's impact on resource adequacy. Combined, these requirements could result in better transmission line planning and a much needed upgrade of the electric grid at a lower cost.

Enabling the PSC to Plan for Future Enhancement of the Grid: The PSC currently lacks information it needs to plan for the future development of the electric grid. SB0201 would require utilities to provide that information to the PSC every four years. These reports would disclose (i) areas of transmission congestion or predicted congestion where new transmission or distribution lines might be needed, (ii) actual and projected costs to ratepayers from this congestion, and (iii) various means, including use of ATTs, to relieve this congestion. It would also enable the PSC to consider the economic, environmental and social costs posed by each transmission alternative.

SB0201 is a carefully constructed bill that ensures that (i) utilities and the PSC have the needed information to plan, and (ii) the PSC has the clear authority to supervise the modernization of the transmission and distribution grid in the most cost effective and equitable manner. For these reasons I urge this committee to issue a FAVORABLE report on SB0201.

SB0201 Seibel.pdf
Uploaded by: Derek Seibel
Position: FAV

February, 17, 2026

To: Honorable Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

From: Derek Seibel, 2490 Barrister Dr., New Windsor, MD

Honorable Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

I am writing today in support of SB0201 Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies. My family is one of thousands of Maryland families whose lives have been derailed following the announcement of the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP). The MPRP is a symptom of a broken transmission planning process under which utilities are financially incentivized to overbuild transmission infrastructure. The costs of this overbuilding is rolled directly into Maryland ratepayer's electric bills in addition to destroying the financial future of those who are the path of the proposed projects. As part of the CPCN application for the MPRP, PSEG (the developer) made clear that Advanced Transmission Technologies were given no serious consideration in the Regional Transmission Expansion Planning process as an alternative to an expensive and destructive 70-mile greenfield transmission line.

PJM acknowledges that over 94% of the increase in load forecast is due to large load connection requests (i.e. data centers in Virginia). Throughout PJM's development of its Critical Issue Fast Path initiative, the public has learned that the load forecasting process PJM used to underpin the supposed need for expensive and harmful projects like the MPRP is wildly inaccurate. In Jason Connell's (PJM's Vice President of Planning) October 17, 2025, letter to FERC Chairman Rosner, PJM admits that large load connection requests are frequently duplicative (potentially being included in the total load forecast multiple times) and often speculative (with no consideration given to the likelihood a large load will ever materialize). Additionally, PJM recently revised downward their load forecasts for 2027 by 4GW, before the reforms resulting from the CIFP initiative are even implemented!

These inflated load forecasts and prioritization of utility company profits (which were at all-time highs in 2025 according to Excelon, FirstEnery, and PSEG's Q4 earnings calls) results in the de-prioritization of less expensive and less harmful alternatives like Advanced Transmission Technologies (ATTs). I believe SB0201 is necessary to codify the prioritization of ATTs in order to serve the best interest of the ratepayers and citizens of Maryland. Utilities and PJM have demonstrated time and again that, if left to their own devices, they will continue to select the "solution" that is the most expensive, longest to build, and most harmful to our communities. Why? Because it makes utilities the most money. I implore this Committee to provide a favorable recommendation for SB0201 and to subsequently

pass SB0201 to codify that the interests of Maryland's citizens must be protected over inflating corporate profits.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input, for your time, and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Derek Seibel
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Drseibel21@gmail.com
(757)871-9093

SB0201-EEE_MACo_SUP.pdf
Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko
Position: FAV

MARYLAND Association of COUNTIES

Senate Bill 201

Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Date: February 19, 2026

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 201. This bill calls for additional considerations and requirements for the construction of transmission lines.

The 2026 Maryland General Assembly is facing a historic number of complex generational challenges. One of the loudest issues to arise has been Maryland opposition to the Piedmont Reliability Project. The Project, which crosses Baltimore, Carroll, and Frederick Counties, effectively creates an "extension cord" across some of our state's prime agricultural lands, providing Pennsylvania-generated energy to Virginia-based data centers, with little direct benefit to Marylanders. As the General Assembly debates how to address this and other energy challenges, one of the biggest underlying issues will be how to prioritize now-competing state priorities (ie, energy demands and environmental goals).

As drafted, SB 201 requires the Public Service Commission and applicants to consider advanced transmission technologies more deeply as a means to avoid unnecessary community, environmental, or ratepayer impacts. As many transmission infrastructure upgrades may uniquely be accomplished by upgrading existing lines or using existing land, counties join the sponsor in wanting to protect both our mutual constituents and the finite number of conserved lands.

This is common sense legislation which seeks to address conflicts between Maryland's growing demand for energy and billions invested into other pro-climate policies to date. For this reason, MACo urges the Committee to issue SB 201 a **FAVORABLE** report.

Testimony on SB201 Advanced Transmission-1.pdf
Uploaded by: Frances Stewart
Position: FAV

February 19, 2026

FAVORABLE - SB0201 - Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Healthy Climate Maryland strongly supports SB0201. We are supporting legislation this session that shifts the state away from fossil fuels to clean energy. Our continued dependence on fossil fuels harms our health through climate change and air pollution. These problems affect us all, but the effects are most severe in low-income and minority communities.

Maryland households and businesses are also facing a rapid rise in utility bills. This is a growing concern for many, especially those with low or moderate incomes. For some, this may lead to difficult choices on whether to cut back on heat in the winter or on other necessities like medications or food.

Renewable energy is now the cheapest and cleanest energy. Making the transition to renewable energy will cut air pollution, decrease climate change, and help resolve the affordability crisis. We need increased transmission to get energy where it's needed to meet Maryland's growing electricity demand. It is essential to do so quickly and without imposing additional burdens on ratepayers.

Advanced transmission technologies (ATTs) can play a key role. ATTs include grid-enhancing technologies, high-performing conductors, and storage. These technologies can make our existing grid more efficient. They are cost-effective and can be deployed more rapidly than building new transmission lines. ATTs can reduce the need for new transmission lines, which, in turn, reduces land use impacts while improving grid reliability. ATTs can also help integrate renewable resources into the grid. Those resources are the least expensive and cleanest sources of the power we need and can be added to the grid much faster than a new gas or nuclear power plant.

SB0201 requires utilities and other transmission owners to explore and report on advanced technology alternatives when applying to the Public Service Commission for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to develop new transmission lines. In addition, owners would be required to report every 4 years whether ATTs could reduce transmission congestion costs for ratepayers.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB0201. Thank you.

About Healthy Climate Maryland

United by a shared commitment to the health and well-being of all Marylanders, Healthy Climate Maryland is a coalition of dedicated public health and medical professionals that seeks to address climate change and environmental challenges by focusing on their impacts on public health. We are working to educate, advocate, and build strong partnerships towards a healthier, more sustainable future for Maryland.

TESTIMONY FOR SB0201.pdf
Uploaded by: Gita Lefstein
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 0201 – Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 17, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gita Lefstein, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB0201, Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies. Maryland has committed to reducing green house gas emissions in the Climate Solutions Now goals. In order to do this, we need to move away from gas and towards electricity and increase the clean sources of our electricity. With this comes the need to vastly improve electricity transmission. New transmission technology could make transmission more efficient, better for the environment, more reliable, and a better value. Among other things, this bill requires that any new transmission lines consider these factors.

I respectfully urge you to issue a favorable report on SB0201.

Thank you.

SB201Advanced transmission technologiesChesapeake
Uploaded by: Gwen DuBois
Position: FAV

Committee: Education, Energy and Environment
Testimony on: SB201: Transmission Lines-Advanced Transmission Technologies
Position: Favorable
Hearing date: February 19, 2026

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility (CPSR) is an organization of over 850 supporters, that was founded by physicians addressing existential threats to health and life like climate change, pollution and nuclear war. CPSR strongly supports **SB201** because, in addition to saving tax payers money, it would allow more renewable energy sources to come on line instead of polluting and greenhouse gas (ghg) producing fossil fuel sources. This will move us closer to achieving our net zero ghg emission goals all while helping Marylanders stay healthier and our transmission grid more reliable.

SB201 require utilities and other transmission owners to explore and report advanced technology alternatives when applying to PSC for a permit (CPCN) to develop new transmission lines. In addition owners would be required to report every 4 years whether advanced transmission technology(ATT) could decrease the cost of transmission congestion for ratepayers.
ATT refer to both grid enhancing technologies (GET) and advanced conductors.
Grid enhancing technologies, also known as "flexible technologies," include: dynamic rating system technology (may increase capacity by up to 70%) that takes weather and other real time conditions into account to adjust transmission capacity, technology that can adjust and reroute power flow to relieve congestion and software that can create different flow configurations as needed to reduce congestion.
Advanced conductors use alternate conductor material that may increase energy carrying capacity by up to 110% without requiring new transmission lines. Advanced conductors also reduce the risk of wildfires.

These advanced technologies are faster (3 years or less vs 10 years), cheaper, more flexible and less socially disruptive than constructing new power lines running through private property like homes and farmland. In addition, they avoid the ghg emissions by allowing more renewable energy sources to come online, and avoid health harms from pollution caused by the use of coal, and gas brought on line temporarily while awaiting the completion of the new power line. Advanced transmission technology would help transition Maryland towards the carbon free grid we need to achieve

Finally, advanced transmission technology avoids the environmental injustice that results from using fossil fuel derived power plants which are located in low income, minority neighborhoods where excessive sources of pollution already exist. A recent report in the British Medical Journal concluded "Pollution from oil and gas development in the US accounts for around 91 000 premature deaths every year, along with over 200 000 new childhood asthma cases and 10 000

preterm births, disproportionately affecting black, Hispanic, Native American, and low-income populations."

Though not totally avoiding the building of new transmission lines in the future, advanced transmission technology creates the possibility of increasing energy transmission in the short term, reducing costs, and speeding up transition to a clean carbon free, more equitable energy future. It avoids a rush to building new transmission lines that may not be needed in the long run.

CPSR supports SB201.

Terry Fitzgerald MD
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
ttfitz@stanfordalumni.org

SB0201 - Advanced Transmission Technology - FAV-Ho

Uploaded by: HoCo Climate Action Organization

Position: FAV

HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

Testimony: **SB0201 – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies**
Hearing Date: **Feb. 19, 2026**
Bill Sponsor: **Senator Brooks**
Committee: **Education, Energy, and the Environment**
Submitting: **Liz Feighner for Howard County Climate Action**
Position: **Favorable**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members,

HoCo Climate Action is a 350.org local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. We are also a member of the Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. Our organization works with residents and ally organizations to promote a safe climate and clean energy future. Specifically, we have worked extensively on building electrification to help Maryland achieve its ambitious climate goals, including net-zero emissions.

We urge you to vote favorably on **Advanced Transmission Technologies**, **SB0201**, which would improve the capacity, efficiency, reliability, and resilience of both new and existing transmission infrastructure, often at a lower cost and faster implementation than traditional upgrades.

SB0201 requires utilities and other transmission owners to analyze and report on advanced transmission technology (ATT) alternatives when applying for a CPCN permit to develop new transmission lines. In addition, this bill requires regular reporting every 4 years whether advanced transmission technologies could decrease the cost of congestion for ratepayers. Advanced Transmission Technologies (ATTs) include grid-enhancing technologies (GETs), high-performance conductors, and storage used as transmission.

ATTs offer cost-effective, efficient, and flexible alternatives to build new transmission lines and deploy more quickly, offering a faster solution to address grid constraints. They are less socially disruptive than constructing new transmission power lines running through private property (like homes and farmland) and public conservation and recreation lands. Building new transmission lines is extremely expensive and highly controversial. Case in point, Maryland ratepayers will bear the $796 million and rising cost for making transmission upgrades to handle the planned retirement of the Brandon Shores and Wagner power plants.

ATTs would help Maryland transition towards the carbon free grid we need by helping get more out of the grid we already have. Although not totally avoiding building new transmission lines in the future, ATT creates the possibility of increasing additional energy transmission in the short term, reducing costs, and speeding up the transition to a clean carbon-free, more equitable energy future. It avoids a rush to build new transmission lines that may not be needed in the long run.

For these reasons, we support **SB0201** and recommend a **favorable** report.

Howard County Climate Action
Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee
www.HoCoClimateAction.org
HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com

I strongly support SB0201.pdf
Uploaded by: James Werner
Position: FAV

James Werner
13234 Old Annapolis Rd
Mt. Airy, MD 21771
James.werner@jhu.edu
301-980-9267
Feb 17, 2026

Testimony in support of SB0201
To: Education, Energy and Environment Committee

Dear Chair Feldman and members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee

My name is Jim Werner and I live in Frederick County. I'm writing to express my support for SB0201. As we've seen with the application by PSEG for a new greenway powerline, they have consistently stuck to only one option for this powerline and they have presented no other options, including any new technologies developed since they started this process. Their plan will destroy approx. 1500 acres of farmland, wetlands, woodlands and other properties in Maryland. I already have one powerline on my property and I have seen the destruction caused by its construction. This bill, requiring alternate technologies to be studied and included in any CPCN application should be passed.

I strongly support SB0201. And respectfully urge you to support and pass this bill to strengthen the requirements for new transmission lines so that farmland, woodlands and wetlands can be protected in Maryland.

Thank you for considering this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jim Werner
Mt. Airy, MD

Ceres Testimony SB201 -Public Utilities - Transmis

Uploaded by: Jeff Mauk

Position: FAV

SB201 – SUPPORT
Jeff Mauk
Ceres
jmauk@ceres.org

TESTIMONY SUPPORTING SB201:
Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
February 17th, 2026

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

I write today on behalf of Ceres to respectfully urge a favorable report from the Committee on SB201 concerning Advanced Transmission Technologies. Ceres works with investors, companies, and financial leaders to promote sustainability solutions. Through our Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy Network (BICEP), we mobilize over 80 major employers, including several businesses doing business in Maryland, to advocate for more affordable and sustainable climate and clean energy policies.

Advanced transmission technologies—including grid-enhancing technologies, high-performance conductors, and energy storage used as transmission—represent proven, cost-effective solutions that can dramatically increase the capacity of existing transmission infrastructure without the time delays and expense of building new lines.

From a business perspective, these technologies offer compelling economic advantages:

Faster Deployment and Reduced Regulatory Risk

New transmission line construction typically requires 7-10 years or longer, with significant permitting, siting, and construction challenges that introduce cost overrun risks and schedule delays. Advanced transmission technologies can often be deployed on existing infrastructure in 1-3 years, dramatically accelerating the timeline for relief of transmission congestion and reducing project execution risk. This speed-to-market advantage is critical for businesses planning major clean energy investments in Maryland.

Enhanced Grid Reliability and Resilience

Grid-enhancing technologies provide real-time monitoring and control capabilities that increase system reliability and prevent cascading outages. For businesses, this translates to reduced risk of costly power interruptions. High-performance conductors also perform better under extreme weather conditions, reducing outage risks during heat waves and storms, which are a growing concern for corporate risk managers as climate impacts intensify.

Supporting Maryland's Economic Competitiveness

Maryland is competing with neighboring states to attract new companies to invest in the state. Transmission constraints directly impact the state's ability to compete for these high-value economic development opportunities. SB201 addresses this challenge by:

- Requiring applicants for transmission line certificates to demonstrate they have considered advanced technologies and alternatives. This ensures the Public Service Commission has complete information to evaluate whether proposed projects represent the most cost-effective solution for ratepayers.
- Establishing regular reporting on transmission congestion and potential solutions. This transparency allows businesses and policymakers to understand bottlenecks in the system and plan accordingly, while ensuring transmission owners are actively evaluating cost-effective solutions rather than defaulting to expensive new construction.
- Creating a more comprehensive planning framework that considers the full range of options—from transmission and distribution system modifications to demand response and energy efficiency. This integrated approach ensures Maryland's grid investments deliver maximum value and support the state's clean energy goals without unnecessary expenditure.

Alignment with Industry Best Practices

Leading utilities and grid operators across the country are already deploying advanced transmission technologies. PJM Interconnection has implemented dynamic line ratings on thousands of circuit-miles. Major utilities have announced significant deployments of high-performance conductors and grid-enhancing technologies. These utilities recognize that maximizing existing infrastructure is both economically prudent and essential for meeting growing electricity demand.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has encouraged regional transmission organizations to consider advanced technologies in their planning processes. SB201 brings Maryland's state-level regulatory framework into alignment with this evolving federal and industry consensus around grid modernization.

Enabling the Clean Energy Transition

Companies are increasingly committed to clean energy procurement and decarbonization goals. Transmission capacity is frequently the limiting factor in connecting new clean energy projects to load centers. By accelerating the deployment of technologies that increase transmission capacity quickly and cost-effectively, SB201 directly supports the business community's ability to meet clean energy commitments while controlling costs.

The bill's expansion of the definition of 'qualified generator lead line' to include advanced transmission technologies is particularly important. This ensures that clean energy interconnection projects can leverage the most cost-effective infrastructure solutions, reducing the cost of clean energy for Maryland businesses and residents.

Conclusion

SB201 represents sound policy that balances the need for transmission infrastructure investment with fiscal responsibility to ratepayers. By requiring consideration of advanced transmission technologies and establishing regular reporting on transmission congestion, the bill creates a planning framework that will result in lower costs, faster deployment, and more resilient infrastructure.

The business community and all ratepayers need a transmission system that can accommodate growing electricity demand, facilitate clean energy deployment, and support economic development, all while controlling costs for ratepayers. SB201 advances all of these objectives.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on SB201.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Mauk
Director, State Policy, Eastern Region, Ceres

SB201_EEE_Audubon_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Jim Brown
Position: FAV

Maryland Office
2901 E. Baltimore St
Baltimore, MD 21224

February 17, 2026

To: Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan and members of the Maryland Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment

From: Jim Brown, Policy Director, Audubon Mid-Atlantic

Subject: Favorable Testimony for SB 201 Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Audubon Mid-Atlantic submits this testimony in support of SB 201: Advanced Transmission Technologies. Audubon Mid-Atlantic is the regional office of National Audubon Society, representing over 35,000 Marylanders who advocate for the protection of birds, bird habitat, and policies aiming to protect both birds and human communities in the face of increasing environmental challenges, habitat loss, pollution, and climate change. In 2023 Audubon worked with partner organizations, government agencies, and industry to author an innovative study title *Birds and Transmission: Building the Grid Birds Need*, which includes advanced transmission technologies as key tools to improve our grid infrastructure, while protecting wildlife.

SB 201 is a critical step forward in ensuring Maryland's grid is reliable, efficient, and prepared for future energy demands. This bill gives the PSC more opportunities to review and applicants more opportunities to demonstrate how advanced transmission technologies (ATTs) and grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) can modernize our transmission infrastructure in a way that accommodates new generation, while minimizing disruptive new transmission lines. Furthermore, ATTs facilitate better integration of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, which are crucial for protecting Maryland's environment. By improving the transmission system's capacity and flexibility, these technologies help ensure that electricity can be delivered efficiently and reliably.

Beyond improving grid reliability and efficiency, ***ATTs provide significant benefits for wildlife, particularly birds. These technologies help optimize existing transmission infrastructure, reducing the need for new transmission lines that have the potential to fragment habitats and pose collision risks to birds***. By enhancing grid efficiency, ATTs can minimize environmental disruption while supporting the responsible expansion of renewable energy. SB 201 provides an opportunity for Maryland to lead in renewable energy development while safeguarding the state's diverse bird populations. By supporting ATT deployment, this bill enables us to advance a cleaner, more reliable grid without additional conservation impacts.

SB 201 will help reduce the threats that birds and people face because of transmission line development. And it will hold Maryland up as a leader in conservation planning, renewable energy, and transmission policy, protecting birds and the places they need to survive now and into the future. Audubon urges a favorable review of SB 201.

Sincerely,
Jim Brown
Audubon Mid-Atlantic

2026 RVR Support of SB0201.pdf
Uploaded by: Jon Bisset
Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of SB0201
Education, Energy & Environment Committee
Hearing Date: February 19, 2026

Submitted by:
Jon Bisset
Executive Director
River Valley Ranch
Carroll County, Maryland

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jon Bisset, and I serve as Executive Director of River Valley Ranch in Carroll County. River Valley Ranch is a year-round Christian camp and retreat center serving more than 9,000 Maryland guests annually, including summer campers, school outdoor education groups, and retreat participants.

I am writing in support of SB0201.

Our ministry operates on preserved, forested land that has been used for youth development and outdoor education for 7+ decades. The proposed Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project would run through land that is actively used for outdoor activities, hiking, horseback riding, environmental learning, and adventure programming. The natural environment is not incidental to our mission. It is central to it.

Large-scale overhead transmission infrastructure would permanently alter the character, usability, and future development potential of areas currently dedicated to serving Maryland youth. Once such infrastructure is approved and constructed, its impact cannot be undone.

Maryland has consistently emphasized the importance of investing in youth development, outdoor education, and mental and physical well-being for young people. Projects that permanently affect land actively used for those purposes deserve the highest level of scrutiny.

SB0201 does not prevent infrastructure development. It strengthens the evidentiary standards and review process before approval is granted. Given the irreversible nature of these projects, requiring more complete information and thorough analysis is both reasonable and responsible.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB0201.
Sincerely,

Jon Bisset
Executive Director
River Valley Ranch (RVR)

MF_SB 201_ Advanced Transmission Technologies.pdf
Uploaded by: Kathy Kinsey
Position: FAV

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Testimony on: Senate Bill 201 – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies
Organization: Mobilize Frederick
Submitting: Kathy Kinsey
Chair, Government Affairs Committee
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 19, 2026

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 201 – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies.

Mobilize Frederick, a nonprofit community advocacy organization formed to assist with implementation of innovative local solutions to address climate change, urges the Committee to issue a **favorable** report on this bill., which would require consideration, and where appropriate, use of advanced transmission technologies to increase the capacity of existing and future transmission lines.

At a time when Marylanders across the State are facing sharply rising energy costs and strained grid capacity, deployment of grid-enhancing tools and other advanced transmission technologies that would optimize and increase transmission line capacity, efficiency, or reliability is vitally important. Advanced transmission technologies can reduce or delay the need to build costly new transmission lines at rate-payer expense and help to ensure that ratepayer dollars are used as cost-effectively as possible.

To ensure consideration and use of these tools, Senate Bill 201 requires developers of new overhead transmission lines to demonstrate how they considered the use and costs of advanced transmission technologies and other alternatives to construction of a new transmission line as part of the required application to the Public Service Commission for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN).

The bill further requires regular capacity assessments of the transmission system, and the development of implementation plans to address line congestion. Starting this year and

every four years thereafter, owners or operators of overhead transmission lines are required to submit a report to the Public Service Commission that:

1. Identifies service areas that experienced line congestion during the previous three-year period and service areas that are projected to experience congestion in the next five years;
2. Assesses the feasibility and costs associated with the use of advanced transmission technologies or other alternatives to construction of new transmission lines to address transmission congestion; and
3. Where feasible, includes a proposed plan for the use of advanced transmission technologies to address areas of congestion.

In this time of unprecedented growth in electricity demand, multiple solutions are needed to ensure grid capacity. Evaluation and use of advanced transmission technologies is an effective strategic planning tool that promotes grid reliability and cost control and helps to ensure the most economically efficient use of ratepayer dollars. Moreover, advanced transmission technologies offer grid flexibility that allows easier connection with renewable energy sources, thereby reducing the need for fossil fuel derived generation.

For all the foregoing reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to issue a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 201.

Sincerely,

KATHY KINSEY
Chair, Government Affairs Committee

cc: Karen Cannon
Executive Director

2026.02.19_SB0201_FAV_Advanced Energy United.pdf
Uploaded by: Katie Mettle
Position: FAV

February 19, 2026

Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee

SB 201
Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies
Sponsor: Senator Ben Brooks

Katie Mettle
Policy Principal, Advanced Energy United

FAVORABLE

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

Advanced Energy United is an industry association that represents companies operating in the clean and advanced energy spaces. "Advanced energy" broadly refers to technology that consists of or which is compatible with clean energy generation, and which makes our grid more affordable, efficient, reliable, resilient and/or secure.

SB 201 will require transmission owners to conduct an analysis on whether alternative routes or the deployment of advanced transmission technologies could be preferable to building an overhead transmission line. It also requires transmission owners to submit a report every four years to the Public Service Commission that will require transmission owners to anticipate future transmission needs and plan accordingly, including the requirement that if feasible, transmission owners create an advanced transmission technology implementation plan.

In general, incorporating advanced transmission technologies on the grid can be faster and more cost-effective than not. This bill has the potential to save ratepayers money in two major ways:

1. By encouraging additional transmission capacity to be added in the fastest, most cost-effective way possible, and

2. By allowing needed energy supply to enter Maryland as quickly and cost-effectively as possible, which will place downward pressure on wholesale energy prices.

We respectfully request the Committee issue a favorable report. Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Katie Mettle, Policy Principal
Advanced Energy United
kmettle@advancedenergyunited.org
202.380.1950 x3197

SB201.pdf
Uploaded by: Kenneth MIller
Position: FAV

Kenneth Miller
4318 Hanover Pike
Manchester, MD 21102
Kfmiller0415@msn.com
February 16,2026

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

Support SB201 LWestdorp.pdf
Uploaded by: Lara Westdorp
Position: FAV

SUPPORT SB201
Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies

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

I ask for your support of SB201 and its efforts to strengthen requirements for approving overhead transmission lines and require additional information and evidence before the PSC can grant a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

PJM's 2025 load forecast expects electricity demand to climb by **32 gigawatts (GW)** by 2030 — a **21 percent increase** in just five years, with the largest share of new load growth — especially from data centers — is concentrated in ***Northern Virginia***, not Maryland. The MPRP is primarily designed to move power ***through*** Maryland, not to it.

A more balanced path forward includes:

- **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 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 SB201,
Lara Westdorp
Frederick County resident

SB 201 - Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - A

Uploaded by: Laurel Peltier

Position: FAV

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facebook.com/aarpmd

SB 201 – Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
February 19, 2026
FAVORABLE

Good afternoon, Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee. My name is Laurel Peltier, and I am a proud member of AARP Maryland and a resident of Baltimore County. AARP Maryland represents more than 850,000 members across the state, making it one of the largest membership-based organizations advocating on behalf of older Marylanders. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB201. We thank Senators Brooks, Hettleman, and West for introducing this legislation on behalf of Maryland ratepayers.

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering people to live their best lives as they age. Our work focuses on issues that matter most to older adults and their families, including affordable utilities, financial security, health care access, and protection from financial exploitation.

SB 201 modernizes Maryland's oversight of overhead transmission lines by:

- Expanding the definition of "qualified generator lead line" to include advanced transmission technologies.
- Requiring applicants for new transmission lines to provide detailed planning, alternatives analysis, and stakeholder engagement evidence.
- Mandating the Public Service Commission (PSC) to consider advanced technologies and alternatives before approving new transmission lines.
- Instituting periodic reporting by transmission line owners on congestion, costs, and technology options.

AARP Maryland supports this bill because:

1. Modernization and Ratepayer Protection

- The bill ensures Maryland utilities consider the latest transmission technologies, which can increase grid efficiency and reliability while potentially lowering costs for consumers.
- By requiring alternatives analysis and cost containment efforts, the bill aims to prevent unnecessary or uneconomic transmission spending that could burden ratepayers.

2. Transparency and Accountability

- Applicants must provide comprehensive evidence of planning and stakeholder engagement, including environmental impacts and community input, before new transmission lines are approved.
- The periodic reporting requirement increases transparency about grid congestion and costs, enabling better oversight and public accountability.

3. Grid-Enhancing Technologies

- The bill prioritizes the use of grid-enhancing technologies (GETs), such as dynamic line rating and advanced conductors, which can boost grid capacity without building new lines, thus saving money and reducing environmental impacts.
- GETs can help Maryland meet future energy demands and integrate more renewable energy sources efficiently.

4. Environmental and Social Considerations

- Mandates analysis of environmental impacts and social issues for all proposed transmission projects and alternatives.
- Encourages solutions that minimize land acquisition and community impacts.

5. Alignment with Regional Planning

- Requires coordination with PJM Interconnection and other regional planning processes to ensure Maryland's grid investments are strategic and cost-effective.
- Supports Maryland's leadership in grid modernization and renewable integration.

6. Advocacy Framing

- This bill puts Maryland ratepayers first by requiring utilities to upgrade existing lines and consider advanced technologies before building expensive new transmission projects.
- Periodic reporting and robust alternatives analysis will help prevent unchecked transmission spending and ensure investments deliver real value to consumers.
- Grid-enhancing technologies offer a path to a more reliable and affordable energy future.

These are unusual times for Maryland's older adults, as many find the current electricity and gas rates truly unaffordable. The health and safety of our seniors have been negatively affected as they scramble to pay for utilities to avoid terminations and keep the power on.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to support SB201.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick, AARP Maryland Advocacy Director at swestrick@aarp.org or by calling 410-310-0374.

SB0201_Advanced Transmission Technologies_EEE_CJW
Uploaded by: Laurie McGilvray
Position: FAV

Testimony on: **SB0201 – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies**
Committee: **Education, Energy and the Environment**
Organization: **Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing**
Submitting: **Gwen DuBois**
Position: **Favorable**
Hearing Date: **February 19, 2026**

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today on SB0201. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice, urges you to vote favorably on SB0201.

The MLC Climate Justice Wing supports SB0201 because it would save ratepayers money, reduce the impacts of new transmission lines, and allow more renewable energy sources to come online instead of relying on polluting, greenhouse gas (GHG) producing fossil fuel sources. This bill will move us closer to achieving our net zero GHG emission goals, all while helping Marylanders have a more affordable, healthier, and reliable electricity grid.

SB0201 requires utilities and other transmission owners to analyze and report on advanced transmission technology (ATT) alternatives when applying to Public Service Commission (PSC) for a permit (CPCN) to develop new transmission lines. In addition, they would be required to report every 4 years whether advanced transmission technologies could decrease the cost of congestion for ratepayers.

ATT refers to both grid enhancing technologies (GETs) and advanced conductors. Grid enhancing technologies, also known as "flexible technologies," include, *dynamic rating system technology* that takes weather and other real time conditions into account to adjust transmission capacity (and which may increase capacity by up to 70%), *advanced power flow technology* that can adjust and reroute power flow to relieve congestion, and *topology optimization software* that can create different flow configurations as needed to reduce congestion. *Advanced conductors* use alternate conductor material that may increase energy carrying capacity by up to 110% without requiring new transmission lines. Advanced conductors also reduce the risk of wildfires.

These advanced technologies are faster to deploy (3 years or less vs 10 years), cheaper, cleaner, more flexible, and less socially disruptive than constructing new transmission power lines running through private property (like homes and farmland) and public conservation and recreation lands. For example, the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project is extremely controversial with opposition from landowners, farmers, communities and elected officials. Additionally, Maryland is faced with skyrocketing utility bills while struggling to deliver the right amount of power to the right regions of the state. Building new transmission lines is extremely expensive and highly controversial. Case in point, Maryland ratepayers will bear the $796 million cost for making transmission upgrades to handle the planned retirement of the Brandon Shores and Wagner power plants. Furthermore, ATTs

can avoid GHG emissions by making it possible for more renewable energy sources to connect to the grid and avoid health harms from pollution from the coal and gas power plants needed temporarily while awaiting the completion of new transmission. ATTs would help Maryland transition towards the carbon free grid we need by helping get more out of the grid we already have.

Finally, ATTs avoids the environmental injustice that results from fossil fuel powered generating plants, which frequently are located in low-income, minority neighborhoods where excessive sources of pollution already exist. A recent report in the British Medical Journal concluded "Pollution from oil and gas development in the US accounts for around 91,000 premature deaths every year, along with over 200,000 new childhood asthma cases and 10,000 preterm births, disproportionately affecting black, Hispanic, Native American, and low-income populations."

Although not totally avoiding building new transmission lines in the future, ATT creates the possibility of increasing additional energy transmission in the short term, reducing costs, and speeding up the transition to a clean carbon-free, more equitable energy future. It avoids a rush to building new transmission lines that may not be needed in the long run.

For these reasons we ask for a FAVORABLE report on SB0201.

350MoCo
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Climate Communications Coalition
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Greater Maryland
ClimateXChange
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
Howard County Indivisible
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland Energy Advocates
Maryland Third Act
Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

SB 201
Uploaded by: Lawrence Richardson
Position: FAV

ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive

ROBERT S. MCCORD
Director of Administration

February 17, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 201 – Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the citizens of Harford County, I am writing to express support for Senate Bill 201.

Reliable and resilient electric infrastructure is critical to Maryland's economic stability, public safety, and long-term growth. As electricity demand continues to increase and the State transitions to a more modern and diversified energy portfolio, it is important that Maryland's regulatory framework supports the responsible development and modernization of transmission infrastructure.

Senate Bill 201 strengthens the review process for new transmission line projects by requiring additional information and analysis related to advanced transmission technologies. By encouraging thoughtful evaluation of modern solutions during the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity review process, the bill promotes informed decision-making that balances reliability, efficiency, and community impact.

Counties such as Harford rely on a stable electric grid to support residents, businesses, emergency services, and critical public facilities. Enhancing transparency and ensuring that decision-makers consider evolving technologies will help Maryland better prepare for future energy needs while improving project planning and long-term system performance.

Importantly, SB 201 promotes a more thorough review process without undermining existing opportunities for local governments to participate and provide input on projects that affect their communities. We believe this balanced approach will help support statewide energy reliability while encouraging innovation and responsible infrastructure investment.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 201.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Cassilly

SB 201 - MoCo_Elrich_FAV (GA 26).pdf
Uploaded by: Marc Elrich
Position: FAV

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 19, 2026

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: Senate Bill 201, *Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies*

Support

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 201, *Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies,* which requires that alternatives such as advanced transmission technologies (ATT) be considered before approval of new overhead transmission lines. Owners of overhead transmission must also report on grid congestion and use of ATT to help address these issues.

Transmission congestion contributes to growing energy costs for ratepayers in Montgomery County and Maryland writ large. The traditional solution of building new transmission lines is expensive and siting can significantly impact private and public landowners.

The use of technologies like advanced conductors can increase the capacity and efficiency of existing grid infrastructure. Requiring utilities to evaluate ATTs before new transmission is built will help ensure that Montgomery County residents and businesses have access to reliable electricity through the most cost-effective solutions available. This is common sense legislation that would address challenges of growing regional demand for energy while protecting ratepayers.

I respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee give this bill a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

SB 201 Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Adv

Uploaded by: Michelle Dietz

Position: FAV

The Nature Conservancy
Maryland/DC

Thursday, February 19, 2026

TO: Senator Brian Feldman, Chair of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee, and Committee Members
FROM: Michelle Dietz, Director of Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy; Cait Kerr, State Policy Manager, The Nature Conservancy,
POSITION: Support SB201 Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports SB 201 offered by Senators Brooks, Hettleman, and West. TNC is a global conservation organization working to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. In Maryland, our work focuses on delivering solutions that secure clean water, air, and healthy, secure living environments.

SB 201 would alter the definition of a "qualified generator lead line" to be inclusive of advanced transmission technologies. Advanced transmission technologies as highlighted by the bill include grid–enhancing technologies, high performance conductors, and energy storage used as transmission. TNC is supportive of SB 201 as it allows for responsible building of overhead transmission lines and promotes the use of advanced transmission technologies.

TNC recognizes the need for Maryland to support grid modernization strategies that use the latest technologies to meet our state's growing energy demand. It is imperative that utilities upgrade our grid as efficiently, cost-effectively, and rapidly as possible, while also protecting sensitive ecosystems and ensuring community buy-in during the process. This legislation contains important provisions to meet Maryland's energy distribution needs.

SB 201 requires that an applicant for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for the construction of an overhead transmission line shall include the following in its application:

- Evidence that the applicant considered any local, state, or federal government transmission planning processes and any transmission planning processes required by PJM interconnection;
- Alternatives to the proposed transmission;
- An analysis of advanced transmission technologies and whether the use of such technologies will enhance the value of the new lead line, including increased value to the ratepayer;
- Alternative routings for the overhead transmission line;
- Technologies or modifications to one or more electric distribution systems in the state that could avoid the need for the transmission line;
- The cost to ratepayers;
- Resource adequacy;

- Energy efficiency and demand response;
- The impact of the project on the environment; and
- A review of an integrated electric transmission–distribution system to address the need for the overhead transmission line.

Additionally, the legislation also requires applicants for the CPCN to provide an analysis of the transmission line route, including but not limited to acquisition of land and rights of way, and the applicant's experience working with local communities and stakeholders. We need to act now to ensure that our grid is capable of distributing energy to meet increasing demand from the generation source to consumers as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. There is also a concurrent need to modernize our grid in order to take advantage of new and emerging technologies that can reduce costs to ratepayers by balancing supply and demand.

We commend Senators Brooks, Hettleman, and West for introducing the legislation. The provisions of SB 201 highlighted above will ensure that applicants for CPCN have considered critical details of overhead transmission lines in the planning process. **Therefore, we urge a favorable report on SB201.**

Testimony on Senate Bill 201.pdf
Uploaded by: Mona Guilfoil
Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – FAVORABLE

SB 0201 – Public Utilities- Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies

Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

February 17, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mona Guilfoil and I live in Union Bridge in rural Carroll County, Maryland. My neighbors and my community are in the path of the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP). This is a proposed 67-mile high voltage transmission line stretching from Pennsylvania through Baltimore, Carroll, and Frederick counties to Virginia. Some have labelled it a 67-mile extension cord running through farms, homes, businesses, and even in some instances through preserved land to bring electricity to the power-hungry data centers in northern Virginia. The Advanced Transmission Technologies bill would ensure that projects such as these would first have to show that alternatives have been analyzed when applying for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN.) Were alternatives to the MPRP considered? Or is the project owner investing in what makes it the most money (capital projects like transmission lines)? Who will be paying for this extension cord? It may be too late for us in the pathway of MPRP, but you may be able to save other farmers, homeowners, small businesses, preserved acreage, and rate payers from future irresponsible projects.

Please vote favorably for SB 201.

Maryland LCV_FAV_SB 201 Advanced Transmission Tech

Uploaded by: Rebecca Rehr

Position: FAV

MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

February 19, 2026

SUPPORT: SB 201 Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports SB 201 - Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies, and we thank Senator Brooks for his leadership and commitment to ensuring grid reliability and resource adequacy in Maryland.

SB 201 represents an important step forward in modernizing Maryland's transmission planning framework, at a time when the state must integrate increasing levels of clean energy, meet rising electricity demand, and minimize costs to ratepayers. Advanced Transmission Technologies (ATTs) include grid-enhancing technologies (GETs), high-performance conductors, and storage used as transmission. ATTs offer cost-effective, efficient, and flexible alternatives to build new transmission lines.

ATTs can improve the capacity, efficiency, reliability, and resilience of both new and existing transmission infrastructure, often at a lower cost and faster implementation than traditional upgrades. Unlike traditional transmission line projects, which can take years to plan, site, permit, and gain community acceptance, ATTs can typically be deployed more quickly, offering a faster solution to address grid constraints.

SB 201 appropriately strengthens the Public Service Commission's review of new overhead transmission line proposals by requiring CPCN applicants to demonstrate that their internal planning processes evaluated alternatives to the proposed line, including the use of ATTs, alternative routing options, and distribution-level technologies or modifications that could avoid the need for new transmission altogether. Additional considerations under this bill include the costs to ratepayers, resource adequacy, energy efficiency, and demand response, as well as the impact of the project on the environment. This allows for a better assessment of the viability and necessity of a transmission construction project. SB 201 also requires regular reporting on transmission congestion and opportunities for deploying ATTs, with an initial report due by December 1, 2026, and subsequent reports every four years thereafter.

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Phone: 410-280-9855

www.mdlcv.org

These reports will help identify where targeted, lower-cost upgrades could relieve system constraints and maximize the use of existing infrastructure before more expensive construction is pursued. **Passing this bill will help us get the most out of the grid that we have in a cost-effective way.**

ATTs play a crucial role in integrating renewable energy sources into the grid, to meet increasing electricity demand and achieve the state's climate goals. A 2024 report by RMI highlighted that GETs could enable the integration of 6.6 GW of new clean energy onto PJM's grid, which would support regional reliability and save approximately $1 billion in production costs annually.

Advanced conductors, which can carry 50% to 110% more power than conventional lines thanks to more efficient materials, can be deployed on existing towers and rights of way to replace older transmission wires. Likewise, storage on the transmission grid offers a cost-effective alternative to building new transmission lines by enhancing system flexibility, managing congestion, reducing renewable curtailment, supporting grid stability, and providing quicker solutions to meet clean energy goals and address resource adequacy concerns.

As the development of renewable energy projects accelerates, ATTs play a vital role in addressing the challenge of limited space on the grid, expediting interconnection processes, and reducing delays. These technologies ensure a smoother transition to a cleaner energy future, enhance grid reliability, and help reduce costs.

ATTs have less land use impacts compared to traditional transmission lines, meaning less disruption to communities and the environment. They can also improve grid access and reliability for underserved or vulnerable communities, ensuring that energy justice is a priority in the state's transition to a more sustainable energy system.

Maryland LCV wants to Power Maryland Forward, supporting **energy affordability** through **deployment of solar and storage, defense against more fossil fuels** and **unchecked utility profits**, while **getting the most out of the electricity grid we have**. Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on this important bill as part of this framework.

SB201_FAV_Third Act_Detchon.pdf
Uploaded by: Reid Detchon
Position: FAV

SB 201 - SUPPORT
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SB 201 SUPPORT

Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
February 19, 2026

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

I am writing to express strong support for SB 201, encouraging the deployment of Advanced Transmission Technologies by Maryland utilities. I am writing as a confessed energy nerd – a retired private citizen in Bethesda, a customer of Pepco, a member of Third Act Maryland, and a former official in the U.S. Department of Energy, where I served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Renewable Energy from 1989 to 1993. **Third Act Maryland** is a volunteer organization that brings together over-60 adults who want to build a better future for our children and grandchildren – in this case, by strengthening clean energy policies that also reduce energy costs to consumers.

The rising cost of our monthly electricity bills has focused the attention of Marylanders, including Gov. Moore, on the issue of energy availability and affordability – a complex topic that seemingly defies easy solution. This bill, however, is **the lowest-hanging fruit you will find** to reduce the cost of electricity in a comparatively short period of time. Unlike other proposals you will consider on this committee as you grapple with energy policy, this one is a no-brainer.

Put simply, advanced transmission technologies are low-cost, proven, and quickly deployable tools to squeeze more juice from our existing transmission grid. Ironically, it is the fact that they are low-cost that has proved their biggest impediment. Utilities make money by investing capital and earning a return on that investment. The bigger the investment, the bigger the return. To them, these technologies are small potatoes – even if they save consumers money and make better use of our built-and-paid-for transmission grid. They need to be nudged to do the right thing, and SB 201 would provide that nudge.

What are advanced transmission technologies?

The transmission grid is one of our greatest achievements, but it represents old technology. Advances in material science, power electronics, communication devices, computational processing power, and optimization algorithms have made possible new ways to improve the efficiency and carrying capacity of existing power lines.[1]

To take two that are specifically called out in SB 201:

- "**Grid-enhancing technologies**," or GETs, include hardware and software that increase the capacity, efficiency, reliability, or safety of the power system **faster and at a lower cost** than traditional wires-based solutions. In many cases, GETs can be installed in months, not years, and pay for themselves in less than a year, making them a low-risk investment option.
- "**High-performance conductors**," or HPCs, enable existing power lines to carry higher loads with reduced thermal sag, improved efficiency (i.e., lower losses), and greater resilience compared to traditional conductors – 50% to 100% more than conventional conductors – often **avoiding the need to build additional transmission** lines.

A recent paper from MIT's Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research[2] summed it up this way:

> In the near-term, perhaps the most powerful opportunity for progress involves increasing the capacity of the electricity grid without building entirely new lines or systems. With so-called advanced transmission technologies (ATTs), we can expand transmission capacity quickly by improving utilization of existing grid infrastructure. According to a recent DOE report[3], wider implementation of these solutions could meet our expected 10-year peak demand growth if deployed rapidly.

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[1] The Brattle Group, "Incorporating GETs and HPCs into Transmission Planning Under FERC Order 1920," Overview of GETs and HPCs, April 2025, p. 11: https://www.brattle.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Incorporating-GETs-and-HPCs-into-Transmission-Planning-Under-FERC-Order-1920.pdf.

[2] Brian Deese, Rob Gramlich, and Anna Pasnau, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research, "A Roadmap for Advanced Transmission Technology Adoption," CEEPR RC-2024-06, September 2024: https://ceepr.mit.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/MIT-CEEPR-RC-2024-06.pdf.

[3] U.S. Department of Energy, "Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Innovative Grid Deployment," April 2024, p. 1: https://climateprogramportal.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Liftoff_Innovative-Grid-Deployment_Final_5.2-1.pdf.

As the U.S. Department of Energy put it in its December 2020 report, "Advanced Transmission Technologies"[4]:

> Advanced transmission technologies, coupled with advanced computational and advanced dynamic situational awareness, are a suite of tools that can help address transmission challenges, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of electricity delivery and increasing the reliability and resilience of the system.
>
> Other technologies, such as energy storage, microgrids, and distributed controls, can also help support the overall objectives of the electric power system. Underpinning the various grid challenges is the fundamental need to perform real-time balancing of generator outputs to meet demand – at all times and across all regions – within the limits and capabilities of the underlying hardware. Enhanced planning and optimization methods can help minimize operating costs, while new hardware capabilities can help move more power by upgrading existing line materials using existing transmission pathways. These new capabilities become more critical with a growing number of evolving threats from cyber-attacks and extreme weather events, among others.

Why is this legislation needed?

Utility profit incentives get in the way of the deployment of advanced transmission technologies. As a report from the U.S. Department of Energy put it:[5]

> Broadly speaking, under traditional cost-of-service regulation, [utilities] earn profits based on capital expenditures (CAPEX) investments and volumetric energy sales rather than customer outcomes. Operational expenditures (OPEX) are passed on to customers at cost, without generating a return for utilities. This business model can disincentivize investments in innovative technologies that have relatively lower CAPEX costs, have higher OPEX, improve system efficiency, or facilitate integration of third-party owned generation and storage (e.g., distributed energy resources, VPPs).
>
> Additionally, the value of advanced grid solutions sometimes flows to customers, other grid stakeholders, or society at large, while the utility bears the cost without realizing significant financial benefit. In the absence of a financial incentive or regulatory mandate, utilities are likely to prioritize investments in other projects that

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[4] U.S. Department of Energy, "Advanced Transmission Technologies," December 2020, pp. i-ii: https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2021/02/f82/Advanced%20Transmission%20Technologies%20Report%20-%20final%20as%20of%2012.3%20-%20FOR%20PUBLIC.pdf.

[5] U.S. Department of Energy, *op. cit.* ("Innovative Grid Deployment"), p. 54.

> generate higher financial returns, rather than prioritizing solutions that may drive better overall system or societal impact.

MIT's recent report made a similar point:

> This "capex bias," which has become an accepted and well-known feature of cost-of-service regulation for over 50 years, ultimately means that transmission providers lack a positive incentive to use GETs or can be disincentivized from using GETs. Because GETs can obviate the need for more costly construction of new transmission lines, thereby reducing utility capital expenditures, they can lower utilities' profits. Even high-performance conductors, which are more expensive than regular conductors, can lower profits when they are installed in lieu of building new transmission – [because] reconductoring transmission lines costs less than half as much as building new transmission.[6]

Conventional incentives based on return on equity cannot motivate utilities because profit is directly proportional to capital invested, which for advanced transmission technologies can be very small: "For example, a 100-basis-point incentive on $1 million of equity invested yields only $50,000 in additional earnings. It is hard to imagine senior utility management even having a meeting to discuss an action that could achieve only a $50,000 contribution to the bottom line, especially when 100 basis points on a $100 million transmission line with potentially similar system benefits would yield $5,000,000 in additional earnings."[7]

SB 201 addresses this dilemma by putting it squarely in front of the Public Service Commission. A utility that wants permission to build a new transmission line would have to show the Commission that it had already considered alternatives to that line, including advanced transmission technologies.

Would Maryland be breaking new ground with SB 201?

SB 201 does not represent radical new thinking in utility regulation. **Twenty years ago,** in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Congress directed FERC to "encourage deployment of transmission technologies and other measures to increase the capacity and efficiency of existing transmission facilities and improve the operation of the facilities."[8] In that same

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[6] Deese *et al., op. cit.*

[7] American Council on Renewable Energy, Comments before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on "Electric Transmission Incentives Policy Under Section 219 of the Federal Power Act," RM20-10-000, July 2020: https://acore.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ACORE-Comments-on-FERC-Transmission-Incentives-NOPR.pdf.

[8] Public Law 109–58, title XII, Subtitle D – Transmission Rate Reform, Sec. 1241, Transmission Infrastructure Investment, codified at 16 U.S. Code § 824s: https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/16/824s.

law, Congress defined advanced transmission technology as including, among other things, energy storage devices (specifically including batteries), controllable load, and distributed generation (including PV, fuel cells, and microturbines).[9]

Former **FERC Chairs Rich Glick and Neil Chatterjee** recently urged[10] state action to encourage the rapid adoption of grid-enhancing technologies and high-performance conductors to quickly squeeze more out of existing transmission lines and rights-of-way. Noting the long lead time needed to build new electric transmission capacity, they said:

> Advanced transmission technologies will provide numerous benefits, but misaligned economic incentives often keep utilities from integrating them into their transmission planning processes. …
>
> At least 10 states passed legislation in 2025 requiring, at minimum, the consideration of advanced transmission technologies. …
>
> Given the urgent need to bring new generation online and keep costs low for customers as demand grows, we must maximize the use of the existing system through advanced transmission technologies. Economic growth relies on low-cost reliable power, and state regulators – in their state commissions and in regional planning processes – now have an important opportunity to ensure that growth is supported by cost-effective investments in advanced transmission technologies.

Gov. Moore's Executive Order of December 19, 2025, addressing the topic of Consumer Affordability, directs the Maryland Energy Administration to petition the Maryland Public Service Commission to require transmission owners to "specifically evaluate Advanced Transmission Technologies (ATTs), including Grid-Enhancing Technologies (GETs), before approving new transmission lines or major upgrades."[11] That is a step in the right direction, but SB 201 would put that direction into law.

We urge a favorable report on SB 201.

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[9] *Ibid*., Sec. 1223, Advanced Transmission Technologies, codified at 42 U.S. Code § 16422: https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/16422.

[10] Rich Glick and Neil Chatterjee, "FERC paved the way for smart grid solutions. States must take the next step." in *Utility Dive*, Aug. 15, 2025: https://www.utilitydive.com/news/smart-grid-gets-grid-enhancing-hpc-states/757687/.

[11] Gov. Wes Moore, Executive Order: "Building an Affordable and Reliable Energy Future," Sec. E2, "Grid Optimization and Advanced Transmission Technologies," Dec. 19, 2025, p. 6: https://governor.maryland.gov/Lists/ExecutiveOrders/Attachments/99/EO%2001.01.2025.27%20Building%20an%20Affordable%20and%20Reliable%20Energy%20Future_Accessible.pdf.

SB0201 Public Utilities - Transmission Lines Favor

Uploaded by: Rhonda Kranz

Position: FAV

Testimony on: SB0201 – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies
Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment
Submitting: Rhonda Kranz
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 19, 2026

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in support of SB0201. 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.

SB0201 would save ratepayers money, reduce the impacts of new transmission lines, and allow more renewable energy sources to come online instead of relying on polluting, greenhouse gas (GHG) producing fossil fuel sources. This bill will move us closer to achieving our net zero GHG emission goals, all while helping Marylanders have a more affordable, healthier, and reliable electricity grid.

It requires utilities and other transmission owners to analyze and report on advanced transmission technology (ATT) alternatives when applying to Public Service Commission (PSC) for a permit (CPCN) to develop new transmission lines. In addition, they would be required to report every 4 years whether advanced transmission technologies could decrease the cost of congestion for ratepayers.

Marylanders have been trying to deal with enormous increases in utility bills at the same time as our electric grid is out of date and needs expansion. New transmission lines are expensive, and issues of where to site them, how many, who benefits, and who pays make them controversial. Grid enhancing technologies and advanced conductors could increase energy carrying capacity by up to 110% without requiring new transmission lines. They can reduce the risk of wildfires are faster to deploy (3 years or less vs 10 years), cheaper, cleaner, more flexible, and less socially disruptive than constructing new transmission power lines running through private property. In addition, ATT's avoid the environmental injustice that results from fossil fuel powered generating plants, which frequently are located in low-income, minority neighborhoods where excessive sources of pollution already exist.

For these reasons, I urge a FAVORABLE report for SB0201.

Testimony in support of SB0201 - Transmission Line

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0201_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
02/19/2026
Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0201 – FAVORABLE

Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0201, Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

PJM is failing Maryland and costing Maryland consumers. As documented by the Maryland PIRG Foundation: [1]

> Between rising delivery and supply costs, Maryland electric utility customers are struggling. Decisions by PJM, the regional grid operator, are a significant contributor to rising bills. … PJM has decided upon unnecessarily raising rates for Maryland energy consumers. PJM is proposing Maryland electric customers pay for new transmission lines to bring power into Virginia. Traditionally, transmission costs are paid for by the stakeholders who are responsible for the increased transmission needs.

The Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) is opposed due to significant environmental damage, the destruction of protected farmland, and the use of eminent domain to seize private property. The proposed 70-mile high-voltage line, opposed by residents and officials in Baltimore, Carroll, and Frederick counties, threatens forests, wetlands, and historic sites while critics argue it lacks transparency and community input. [2] Overhead transmission lines should not occur.

There must be a better way to manage the transmission of electricity in Maryland that will not involve increased costs for customers and harm the environment and harm people whose life will be affected by the proposed transmission corridor.

This bill will take positive steps to find that path by altering the definition of "qualified generator lead line" for provisions of law regarding certificates of public convenience and necessity; requiring an applicant for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction of an overhead transmission line to include certain information in its application; requiring the Public Service Commission to consider certain evidence before taking action on a certain application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity; etc.

It is one of many proactive steps Maryland should be taking to get a handle on utility costs.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass SB0201.

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[1] https://pirg.org/maryland/foundation/updates/decisions-by-regional-grid-operator-pjm-hurting-electric-customers/
[2] Google AI Search “why reject the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project”

SB201 PHI FWA Final.pdf
Uploaded by: Anne Klase
Position: FWA

February 19, 2026

12 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Favorable with Amendments – Senate Bill 201 - Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Delmarva Power & Light Company (Delmarva Power) support with amendments **Senate Bill 201 - Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies**. **Senate Bill 201** requires an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the construction of an overhead transmission line to include (1) evidence that the applicant considered, during its internal planning process, specified transmission planning processes and (2) an analysis of the selected transmission line route. The Public Service Commission (PSC) may not take final action on such a CPCN application until it gives due consideration of evidence that specified alternatives have been considered by the applicant. By December 1, 2026, and every four years thereafter, each owner or operator of an overhead transmission line must submit a report to PSC containing specified information related to transmission congestion. The bill also makes a related change to the definition of "qualified generator lead line.

The bill creates inconsistent definitions of advanced conductors, conflicting with those definitions in FERC Order 1920 and 2023, and reinforced in FERC Order 2023-A. For example, the definition in Senate Bill 201 of high-performance conductors would exclude aluminum conductor, steel supported conductors (ACSS), despite their superior performance over traditional ACSR conductors. As written, the bill would limit engineers' ability to choose the most cost-effective technical solutions when executing large-scale infrastructure projects. More importantly, the bill would require utilities to evaluate other technologies before making equipment upgrades, even when those equipment limitations, not conductors, are the true constraint, which may not deliver the expected benefits. We strongly urge the bill sponsor to amend the definition of high-performance conductors to align with the definition found in FERC Order 1920, 2023, and 2023-A.

We also are concerned with the lack of cost recovery language in the bill. We have suggested language with the bill sponsor and look forward to continuing those conversations.

Pepco and Delmarva Power look forward to continuing to work with the bill sponsor to address our concerns.

Amber Perry | Anne Klase | Allyson Black-Woodson | Poetri Deal | 410 980 5347

SB 201 - PSC Fav w Amend.pdf
Uploaded by: Barve Barve
Position: FWA

STATE OF MARYLAND

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chair Brian Feldman
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 201 – Favorable with Amendments – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Public Service Commission ("Commission") requests a favorable report on SB 201, with consideration of the amendments detailed below. The Commission has had extensive discussions with the bill sponsor to enhance the bill language to achieve the policy directives set forth in the bill and ensure that implementation of the bill is feasible.

The bill modifies the regulation and approval process for overhead transmission lines, incorporating requirements for advanced transmission technologies (ATTs), enhanced analytical and transmission congestion reporting, cost-containment strategies, and potential incentives for advanced transmission technologies. The bill alters the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process in order to maximize the capacity, efficiency, and reliability of existing transmission infrastructure before authorizing the construction of new transmission lines.

In order to accomplish a smooth implantation of the proposed legislation, the Commission suggests the following amendments to the bill:

- The definition of "high performance conductors" should be edited so as not to require conductors to satisfy every listed performance threshold simultaneously. If the definition required: 1) diameter and weight similarity **AND** a reduced resistance; 2) increased potential energy carrying; **OR** 3) reduced coefficient of thermal expansion (bold emphasis added), it would allow for the selection of a broader range of advanced conductors which could provide the necessary congestion relief at a lower project cost.

- Including a more precise definition for the term "Storage as a Transmission Asset (SATA)" as opposed to "energy storage used as transmission" would better align with current PJM efforts to define and implement future rules for using SATA as a transmission alternative in its regional planning. Aligning the legislative intent with PJM's efforts will also establish clearer eligibility and functional requirements for

applicants and allow consistent analysis by the Commission across all CPCN proceedings. It will also provide a distinction between front-of-the-meter transmission-level energy storage used for PJM markets, such as contemplated in the 2025 Next Generation Energy Act, and SATA applications intended to serve as transmission alternatives, thereby helping to avoid confusion as to which regulatory process is required.

- Where the bill refers to a "new lead line" in proposed § 7–207(b)(3)(iv)(1)(B) it should instead refer to a "transmission line" so that the requirement is not inadvertently limited to just "qualified generator lead line[s]."

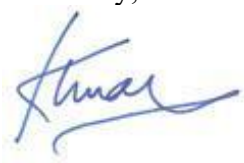
- Because proposed § 7-207.6 does not specify whether the transmission congestion reports it requires must be aligned with PJM planning assumptions or regional planning cycles, the bill should specify that the reports must distinguish local vs. regional congestion drivers and, where applicable, reference the PJM planning inputs used to support the reported congestion forecasts and proposed ATT solutions.

The Commission notes that where proposed § 7–207(b)(3)(iv)(1) requires CPCN applicants to consider factors specific to distribution systems in the State, the Commission may need to interpret this requirement to apply only to the extent that the applicant has access to the information necessary to make those considerations. If the applicant is not a Maryland public service company they may not have access to some of the information that would be required to complete a full analysis specific to the distribution systems in the State, and they may not be able to obtain such information from a public service company without compromising the competitive nature of the transmission planning process approved by FERC.

In addition, the Commission interprets the enactment of SB 201 to apply prospectively. Therefore, the provisions would not apply to submitted CPCN applications currently under consideration by the Commission. However, the Commission always has discretion to request additional information from applicants not previously provided in the CPCN application.

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 201. The Commission requests a favorable report, with the amendment as detailed above, as this bill has the potential to mitigate costs for transmission projects. Please contact the Commission's Director of Legislative Affairs, Niki Wiggins, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Maryland Public Service Commission

BGE_FWA_EEE_Senate Bill 201 – Public Utilities - T
Uploaded by: Dytonia Reed
Position: FWA

Position Statement

Favorable with Amendments
Education, Energy, and Transportation
2/17/2026

Senate Bill 201 – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) supports with amendments **Senate Bill 201 – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies**. *Senate Bill 201* requires an applicant for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for the construction of an overhead transmission line to include in its application an analysis of alternatives to the proposed transmission line, including the use of advanced transmission technologies.

BGE remains committed to supporting grid-enhancing technologies that strengthen reliability, while prioritizing affordability for our customers.

Senate Bill 201 would add new requirements to the Maryland Public Service Commission's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process, which typically takes 12–18 months. Current law already requires CPCN applicants to evaluate alternatives, including use of existing rights-of-way and route options, with detailed consideration of environmental, community, land use, and cost impacts. Many of the evaluation criteria in *Senate Bill 201* are already addressed in federal processes, including FERC Order 1920 and FERC Order 2023, which consider grid-enhancing technologies, including advanced conductors. Integrating State priorities into existing regional and federal planning processes is more appropriate than expanding the CPCN process in ways that could delay critical projects.

The bill also creates inconsistent definitions of advanced conductors, conflicting with those definitions in FERC Order 1920 and 2023, and reinforced in FERC Order 2023-A. For example, *Senate Bill 201*'s definition of high-performance conductors would exclude aluminum conductors, steel supported conductors (ACSS), despite their superior performance over traditional ACSR conductors. As written, the bill would limit engineers' ability to choose the most cost-effective technical solutions when executing large-scale infrastructure projects. More importantly, the bill would require utilities to evaluate other technologies before making equipment upgrades, even when those equipment limitations, not conductors, are the true constraint, which may not deliver the expected benefits. We strongly urge the bill sponsor to amend the definition of high-performance conductors to align with the definition found in FERC Order 1920, 2023, and 2023-A.

John Haysbert| Brittany Jones | Guy Andes| Dytonia Reed| 410.269.5281

AN EXELON COMPANY

Position Statement

BGE does caution that by expanding the required analysis, the bill could force consideration of less economical and less reliable transmission options, increasing costs for applicants and customers, the Commission, and State agencies such as PPRP. It would also slow the permitting and siting of overhead transmission lines, potentially delaying PJM-mandated projects, jeopardizing system reliability, and risking noncompliance with federally enforceable North American Electric Reliability Corporation standards.

BGE will continue discussions with the bill sponsor to address our concerns. We respectfully request a favorable report with specified amendment for *Senate Bill 201*.

John Haysbert| Brittany Jones | Guy Andes| Dytonia Reed| 410.269.5281

EMF and powerlines British Columbia Medical Journ
Uploaded by: Emily Tarsel
Position: FWA

BCMJ
A Doctors of BC Publication

Is living near power lines bad for our health?

Issue: BCMJ, **vol. 50, No. 9, November 2008,** Page 494 BC Centre for Disease Control
By: **Ray Copes, MD, FRCPC Prabjit Barn, MSc,**

The debate of whether there are adverse effects associated with electromagnetic fields from living close to high-voltage power lines has raged for years. While research indicates that large risks are not present, the possibility of a relatively small risk cannot be conclusively excluded.

Electromagnetic fields (EMFs) are produced by electrical appliances, electrical wiring, and power lines, and everyone is exposed to them at some level. Numerous studies have investigated EMF exposure and health. Although earlier studies did suggest associations between exposure and a variety of health effects including brain cancer, breast cancer, cardiovascular disease, and reproductive and developmental disorders, most of these associations have not been substantiated by more recent research. One notable exception to this is the association with childhood leukemia, which the International Agency for Research on Cancer regards as sufficiently well established to rate extremely low frequency magnetic fields as a "possible" human carcinogen.[1]

The first study to link childhood leukemia with residential EMF exposure was published in 1979[2] and since then, a number of studies have found weak associations to support this original finding. Studies investigating childhood leukemia as a health outcome of EMF exposure have used measured and calculated magnetic fields, as well as distance of homes to power lines, as an exposure measure. Studies using magnetic field strength as an exposure measure have found that exposures greater than the range of 0.3 to 0.4 μT lead to a doubling risk of leukemia, with very little risk below this level. This exposure range is approximately equal to a distance of 60 m within a high-voltage power line of 500 kV.

However, a more recent study showed an elevated risk of leukemia among children living in homes with distances much greater than 60 m from high voltage power lines.[3] This study involved close to 30000 matched case-control pairs of children living in the United Kingdom. It was found that children living in homes as far as 600 m from power lines had an elevated risk of leukemia. An increased risk of 69% for leukemia was found for children living within 200 m of power lines while an increased risk of 23% was found for children living within 200 to 600 m of the lines.[3] This study was notable in that it found some elevation of risk at much greater distances than previous studies.

Although distance of homes from power lines can be considered a crude measure of exposure, the results of this study do merit attention. A limited understanding exists of how exposure to EMF can affect health. The underlying biological mechanism is unknown, making it difficult to determine which measure of EMF is most appropriate when evaluating health outcomes. Use of residential proximity may be a reasonable surrogate for direct measurements of EMF, but may also reflect other factors that are related to proximity to high voltage lines.

If the association found in the UK study does reflect a causal relationship, what are the potential impacts in BC? Using current BC leukemia rates[4] and assuming similar proportions of the population live near high voltage lines, on a statistical basis, there may be one additional leukemia in BC every 2 years. To eliminate this risk, one would need to achieve a separation distance of 600 m between every high voltage power line and the nearest residence. While this could be done, it would require substantial changes to existing land use patterns and would require significant resources. While it can be argued that this action is consistent with some forms of the precautionary principle, based on best available evidence, one can achieve much greater risk reduction or health benefits if resources are directed to other larger, better established risks.

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Dr Copes is the director of BCCDC's Environmental Health Services Division. Ms Barn is an environmental health scientist at BCCDC.

https://www.ifm.org/articles/emf-health-reducing-exposures

EMF and powerlines Fact Sheet.pdf
Uploaded by: Emily Tarsel
Position: FWA

EMF Fact Sheet

Power lines emit invisible electromagnetic fields (EMFs) that are strongest directly underneath and decrease rapidly with distance, often fading to background levels within a few hundred feet (around 100 meters), though higher voltage lines reach further, sometimes up to 700 feet or more, with levels dropping to ambient (like household appliances) at moderate distances. While strong evidence for health risks like cancer from typical residential EMF exposure is lacking, some studies suggest potential links to childhood leukemia at very close proximity (under 50 meters), prompting caution and distance as a primary way to reduce exposure.

No Federal Standards:

The U.S. EPA notes there are no federal EMF limits for power lines, though some states mandate right-of-way widths

Potential Effects on Brain Structure & Function:

- **Blood-Brain Barrier (BBB) Permeability:**

  RF-EMFs can increase BBB leakage, allowing substances like albumin to enter the brain.

- **Neuronal Damage:**

  Studies show potential for neuronal loss (e.g., pyramidal cells) and changes in synaptic structure, particularly in the hippocampus.

- **Neurotransmitter & Calcium Levels:**

  EMFs can alter neurotransmitter levels and impair calcium homeostasis, affecting cell signaling.

- **Oxidative Stress:**
  Increased reactive oxygen species (ROS) and oxidative stress are noted mechanisms, potentially damaging cells and DNA.

Key Distances & Guidelines:

- **For Health Concerns (EMFs):**
- >200 meters (650 ft): EMFs generally fade significantly.
- 700-1000+ ft: Recommended by some sources for reduced exposure.
- <50 meters: Expected to have typical magnetic fields, says Australia's health authority.
- ~300m: Some studies focus on childhood leukemia within this range.
- **For Physical Safety (Regulatory):**
- 12 meters (~40 ft): Minimum clearance for high-voltage lines (e.g., >66kV) from structures, primarily for preventing electric shock/fires, not EMFs

Factors to Consider:

- **Voltage: Higher voltage means stronger EMFs, requiring greater distance.**
- Type of Line: Transmission lines (large towers) differ from neighborhood distribution lines (smaller poles).
- EMF Meters: You can rent meters to measure actual magnetic fields in a potential home.
- Secondary Concerns: Noise (sizzling in wet weather), visual blight, and potential property value impacts.

EMF national cancer institute.pdf
Uploaded by: Emily Tarsel
Position: FWA

NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

Electromagnetic Fields and Cancer - NCI

Electric fields are produced whether or not a device is turned on, whereas magnetic fields are produced only when current is flowing, which usually requires a device to be turned on. Power lines produce magnetic fields continuously because current is always flowing through them. Electric fields are easily shielded or weakened by walls and other objects, whereas magnetic fields can pass through buildings, living things, and most other materials.

Electric and magnetic fields together are referred to as electromagnetic fields, or EMFs. The electric and magnetic forces in EMFs are caused by electromagnetic radiation. There are two main categories of EMFs:

- Higher-frequency EMFs, which include x-rays and gamma rays. These EMFs are in the ionizing radiation part of the electromagnetic spectrum and can damage DNA or cells directly.
- Low- to mid-frequency EMFs, which include static fields (electric or magnetic fields that do not vary with time), magnetic fields from electric power lines and appliances, radio waves, microwaves, infrared radiation, and visible light. These EMFs are in the non-ionizing radiation part of the electromagnetic spectrum and are not known to damage DNA or cells directly. Low- to mid-frequency EMFs include extremely low frequency EMFs (ELF-EMFs) and radiofrequency EMFs. ELF-EMFs have frequencies of up to 300 cycles per second, or hertz (Hz), and radiofrequency EMFs range from 3 kilohertz (3 kHz, or 3,000 Hz) to 300 gigahertz (300 GHz, or 300 billion Hz). Radiofrequency radiation is measured in watts per meter squared (W/m^2).

Why are non-ionizing EMFs studied in relation to cancer?

Power lines and electrical appliances that emit non-ionizing EMFs are present everywhere in homes and workplaces. For example, wireless local networks are nearly always “on” and are increasingly commonplace in homes, schools, and many public places.

No mechanism by which ELF-EMFs or radiofrequency radiation could cause cancer has been identified. Unlike high-energy (ionizing) radiation, EMFs in the non-ionizing part of the electromagnetic spectrum cannot damage DNA or cells directly. Some scientists have speculated that ELF-EMFs could cause cancer through other mechanisms, such as by reducing levels of the hormone melatonin. There is some evidence that melatonin may suppress the development of certain tumors.

Studies of animals have not provided any indications that exposure to ELF-EMFs is associated with cancer (10–13). The few high-quality studies in animals have provided no evidence that Wi-Fi is harmful to health (8).

Although there is no known mechanism by which non-ionizing EMFs could damage DNA and cause cancer, even a small increase in risk would be of clinical importance given how widespread exposure to these fields is.

What have studies shown about possible associations between non-ionizing EMFs and cancer in children?

Numerous epidemiologic studies and comprehensive reviews of the scientific literature have evaluated possible associations between exposure to non-ionizing EMFs and risk of cancer in children (13–15). (Magnetic fields are the component of non-ionizing EMFs that are usually studied in relation to their possible health effects.) Most of the research has focused on leukemia and brain tumors, the two most common cancers in children. Studies have examined associations of these cancers with living near power lines, with magnetic fields in the home, and with exposure of parents to high levels of magnetic fields in the workplace. No consistent evidence for an association between any source of non-ionizing EMF and cancer has been found.

Exposure from power lines. Although a study in 1979 pointed to a possible association between living near electric power lines and childhood leukemia (16), more recent studies have had mixed findings (17–25). Most of these studies did not find an association or found one only for those children who lived in homes with very high levels of magnetic fields, which are present in few residences.

Several studies have analyzed the combined data from multiple studies of power line exposure and childhood leukemia:

- A pooled analysis of nine studies reported a twofold increase in risk of childhood leukemia among children with exposures of 0.4 μT or higher. Less than 1% of the children in the studies experienced this level of exposure (26).

- A meta-analysis of 15 studies observed a 1.7-fold increase in childhood leukemia among children with exposures of 0.3 μT or higher. A little more than 3% of children in the studies experienced this level of exposure (27).
- More recently, a pooled analysis of seven studies published after 2000 reported a 1.4-fold increase in childhood leukemia among children with exposures of 0.3 μT or higher. However, less than one half of 1% of the children in the studies experienced this level of exposure (28).

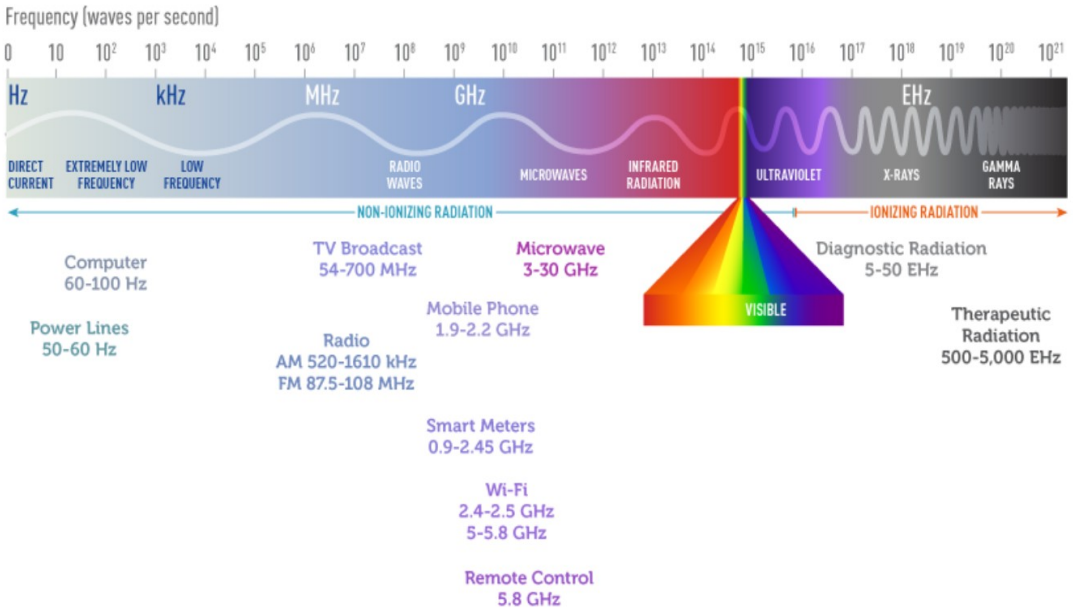
For the two pooled studies and the meta-analysis, the number of highly exposed children was too small to provide stable estimates of the dose–response relationship. This means that the findings could be interpreted to reflect linear increases in risk, a threshold effect at 0.3 or 0.4 μT, or no significant increase.

The interpretation of the finding of increased childhood leukemia risk among children with the highest exposures (at least 0.3 μT) is unclear.

What do expert organizations conclude about the cancer risk from EMFs?

In 2002, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a component of the World Health Organization, appointed an expert Working Group to review all available evidence on static and extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields (13). The Working Group classified ELF-EMFs as “possibly carcinogenic to humans,” based on limited evidence from human studies in relation to childhood leukemia. Static electric and magnetic fields and extremely low frequency electric fields were determined “not classifiable as to their carcinogenicity to humans” (13).

ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM



The electromagnetic spectrum represents all of the possible frequencies of electromagnetic energy. It ranges from extremely long wavelengths (extremely low frequency exposures such as those from power lines) to extremely short wavelengths (x-rays and gamma rays) and includes both non-ionizing and ionizing radiation.

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testimony for SB 201 (HB40) revised.pdf
Uploaded by: Emily Tarsel
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February 19, 2026

Support with Amendment SB 201 (HB 40)
Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

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

I am a resident of northern Baltimore County and I and my neighbors have been supportive of protecting farmland and of alternatives proposed including reconductor upgrades. However, while reconductoring is celebrated as a purely positive development, there is a downside.

As transmission lines are re-energized with higher current loads, the electromagnetic fields they generate intensify. There is concern and evidence that power line EMFs are linked to serious adverse health issues including cancer, particularly childhood leukemia. The International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies low level frequency EMF as a "possible carcinogen." I have attached copies of articles relating to this issue.

Such studies suggest a relationship between amount of exposure, distance from the EMF and health outcomes. While this bill would require various safe guards for constructing NEW power lines, It does not establish any safe guards regarding significant changes to EXISTING power lines, no limits on EMF exposure, distance guidelines or any requirement to conduct such studies.

I live near one of those existing power lines. There has been a noisy helicopter flying back and forth along this power line, dawn to dusk, for the past SIX weeks.
It's incredibly intrusive. Neither I nor my neighbors knew that AUI Power had a contract with BGE and the reconductoring had already begun in advance of this bill, without any public hearing or attention to the risks and loses to residents who live along existing power lines. Furthermore, I learned that there is a plan to put up new high power transmission lines in this corridor as well. While the bill requires a certificate of

convenience and necessity (CCN) for constructing new power lines (with various safe guards and stipulations), those requirements can be waived for existing power lines:

Page 5 of the bill
20 (ii) For construction related to an existing overhead transmission
21 line, the Commission may waive the requirement in subparagraph (i) of this
paragraph for 22 good cause.

It is very disturbing that SB 201 (HB40) does not seem to offer the same safeguards for the use of existing power lines as it would for constructing new power lines in new areas. Using existing lines this way could mean the MPRP project moves closer to more densely populated areas and human habitats without the kind of protections required in the bill for new construction requiring a CCN . The bill should be amended to require the same safe guards for using existing lines and for constructing new power lines where such already exist. These safeguards should include an analysis of EMF exposure risks and safe distances from power lines. I ask that such requirements be added to the bill to ensure the safety and health of humans, wildlife and the environment of those living near existing power lines, especially where expansion of the power load is anticipated.

Finally, from a purely cost-effective perspective, just Google the downside of reconductoring for a whole list of structural concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.
Please amend SB 201 to include these protections.

Sincerely,

Emily Tarsell
chriscares@live.com

SB 201
Uploaded by: Megan Outten
Position: FWA

Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: MEA
SUBJECT: SB 201 - Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies
DATE: February 19, 2026

MEA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Senate Bill 201 seeks to modernize Maryland's approach to transmission line development by integrating Advanced Transmission Technologies (ATTs) into the regulatory process governing Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN).

MEA appreciates the Delegate's efforts to promote reliability, affordability, and to highlight the issues related to transmission modernization to be addressed by the bill, particularly encouraging the deployment of alternative transmission technologies ("ATTs"). By alleviating congestion, ATTs can enhance access to existing lower-cost generation and the interconnection of new lower-cost resources. ATTs can also give system operators new tools for managing reliability by measuring and unlocking the grid's dynamic capabilities. MEA supports the intent of this bill, and recommends targeted amendments to ensure effective implementation:

1. **Definition of Advanced Transmission Technologies:** The bill introduces a definition of ATTs in Section 7-207, listing specific technologies such as grid-enhancing technologies (GETs), high performance conductors, and storage used as a transmission asset. MEA recommends:
    a. Changing "includes" to "including but not limited to" to allow for future technological advancements without requiring further statutory amendments.
2. **Additional Evidence:** The requires the applicant to include evidence of several categories of alternatives related to local, state, or federal transmission planning processes. MEA recommends adjusting the number of requirements to preserve the efficiency of the CPCN process.
    a. **Alternative Routes:** The bill mandates CPCN applicants to include an analysis of transmission alternative routes. However, Maryland regulations (Md. Code Regs. 20.79.04.03) already require a description of alternative routes. To avoid redundancy, MEA suggests striking (iv)(1)(B) ALTERNATIVE ROUTINGS from the bill.
    b. **Non-transmission Alternatives:** MEA also suggests changing the intent and applicability of provisions (D), (G), and (I) regarding energy efficiency and demand response, as well as distribution-level GETs and review of an integrated electric transmission-distribution system to address the need for the transmission line. While MEA recognizes the need to drive more holistic electric system planning that leverages

transmission- and distribution-level resources, these considerations may be more effectively developed through the planning requirements proposed at 7–207.6 rather than through permitting processes, to balance the need for efficient approval of necessary energy infrastructure.

3. **Considerations for Cost-Effectiveness:** MEA supports incorporating ATTs into the State's electrical grid and within transmission planning, but recommends:
    a. Including cost-effectiveness considerations to avoid potentially overburdening ratepayers with expenses for alternatives that meet the need but at a significantly higher cost. This approach aligns with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC's) intent in Order No. 1920 to promote ATTs as potentially faster, cheaper, and more efficient solutions to congestion and reliability needs compared to conventional wires-based projects.
4. **Congestion Analysis Requirements:** The bill requires utilities to report on congestion levels and the feasibility of ATTs. To ensure efficiency, MEA recommends:
    a. Establishing a threshold for congestion levels, so that analyses target heavily congested lines rather than all transmission lines. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) 2023 National Transmission Needs Study (NTNS) and subsequent updates could serve as a reference for identifying significant congestion areas.

MEA urges the committee to adopt the proposed amendments and to issue a **favorable report as amended**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy manager, at megan.outten@maryland.gov or 443.842.1780.

FirstEnergy UNFAV EEE - SB0201.pdf
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OPPOSE – Senate Bill 0201
SB0201 – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Thursday, February 19, 2026

Potomac Edison, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., serves approximately 293,000 customers in all or parts of seven Maryland counties (Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington). FirstEnergy is dedicated to safety, reliability, and operational excellence. Its electric distribution companies form one of the nation's largest investor-owned electric systems, serving customers in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and West Virginia.

Unfavorable

Potomac Edison / FirstEnergy requests an Unfavorable report on SB-201 – *Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies* as drafted. While the bill aims to modernize our state's electrical transmission infrastructure, we believe it is laden with unintended consequences that warrant further review and careful consideration.

Potomac Edison / FirstEnergy requests an Unfavorable report on SB 0201 for the following reasons.

While the bill proposes altering the definition of *"qualified generator lead line"* within the context of certificates of public convenience and necessity, this change could lead to ambiguities in regulatory interpretations -- potentially complicating the approval process for new transmission projects. The bill also mandates that the Public Service Commission consider certain evidence before taking decisive action on applications. This requirement, though well-intentioned, could prolong the decision-making process, hindering the timely development of necessary transmission infrastructure.

SB-201 requires applicants seeking certificates for constructing overhead transmission lines to include specific evidence and analysis in their applications. While thorough evaluation is essential, the administrative scope of the required analyses and reports are significant. Imposing these additional mandatory analyses increases the administrative burden on applicants and potentially delays the start of these critical infrastructure projects. Given the rapid pace of technological advancements and grid changes, the usefulness of these reports and the data within them can quickly become outdated and irrelevant.

The bill also assumes that future areas of grid congestion can be accurately projected. Growth related to new development and the shifting of energy demands make such projections inherently difficult to make -- and may lead to misguided policy decisions or the misallocation of resources.

In addition, multiple provisions of SB-201 appear to conflict with existing authority held by Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). These conflicts may create regulatory confusion, delay projects, and lead to potential legal challenges that could hinder Maryland's ability to modernize its grid efficiently.

While the modernization of our electrical transmission system is a worthy goal, it is crucial to implement policies that facilitate progress without introducing new obstacles. Given the administrative scope of the analyses and reports, how quickly data can become irrelevant, the difficulty in projecting future areas of grid congestion, and the fact that multiple portions of this bill conflict with existing RTO/FERC authority, **Potomac Edison / FirstEnergy respectfully request an Unfavorable report on Senate Bill 0201.**