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**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 Emily Tarsell, a resident of northern Baltimore County and I and my neighbors have been supportive of protecting farmland and of alternatives like reconductor upgrades. However, we thought that the use of reconductors would be studied and regulated regarding safety, efficacy and necessity prior to implementation. We were wrong. The implementation has already begun.

Without any notice, for the past 6 weeks, noisy helicopters have been flying back and forth, from dawn to dusk, along the power lines near us. It's incredibly intrusive. I learned that AUI Power has a contract with BGE and the reconductoring already began in advance of this bill, without any public hearing or attention to the risks and losses to residents who live along **existing** power lines. Furthermore, I learned that there is a plan to put up additional new high power transmission lines in our corridor as well. We are still trying to find out more about that.

While the bill requires a certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) for constructing **new power lines on private land**, (with various safe guards and stipulations), those requirements can be waived for existing power lines and corridors:

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.

The bill needs to be amended to put guardrails around the **use of existing power lines and corridors**. As transmission lines are re-energized with higher current loads from reconductors, the electromagnetic fields they generate intensify. EMFs are linked to serious adverse health issues such as childhood leukemia. The threats increase with proximity to power lines. Yet they are putting new lines into more densely populated areas and human habitats without regulations re EMF exposure, distance guidelines or requirements to conduct such studies.

The bill should be amended to require guardrails for using **existing lines and existing corridors** relating not only to health and environment but also visual, economic and structural impact for those living near existing electric power lines.

Thank you.

Please amend SB 201 to include these protections.

Sincerely,

Emily Tarsell
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