



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

Testimony: [HB0040](#) – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies
Hearing Date: Feb. 3, 2026
Bill Sponsor: Delegate Charkoudian
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Submitting: Liz Feighner for Howard County Climate Action
Position: Favorable

Dear Chair, Vice Chair 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, HB0040**, 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.

HB0040 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 **HB0040** and recommend a **favorable** report.

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