



TESTIMONY OF
BRITTANY BAKER
MARYLAND DIRECTOR
—
MIKE TIDWELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**HB0040- PUBLIC UTILITIES- TRANSMISSION LINES-
ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES**
FEBRUARY 3, 2026 AT 2:00 PM

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation 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 HB0040.

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