



Committee: Energy and Transportation

Testimony on: HB40

Position: Favorable

Hearing date: February 3, 2026

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility (CPSR) is an organization of over 880 supporters, that was founded by physicians addressing existential threats to health and life like climate change, pollution and nuclear war. CPSR strongly supports **HB40** 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.

HB40 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. ATT would help transition Maryland towards the carbon free grid we need to achieve

Finally, ATT 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, ATT 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 HB 40.

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