



HB-0040

Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Testimony before Environmental and Transportation Committee

Hearing 02/03

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair and Co-Chair Korman and Guyton, and members of the committee, my name is Sidaarth Karegowdra, a junior at River Hill High School, and I represent the 1600+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are submitting written testimony today in support of Maryland House Bill 0040, Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies, sponsored by Delegate Charkoudian.

This bill strengthens Maryland’s oversight of major transmission infrastructure by modernizing the certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) process. It requires applicants proposing new overhead transmission lines to provide more comprehensive information, including evidence that advanced transmission technologies and alternatives have been fully considered. Additionally, it ensures that the Public Service Commission evaluates this evidence before approving projects that could have long-term environmental, economic, and community impacts.

As Maryland accelerates its clean energy transition, it is essential that new transmission infrastructure is built responsibly, transparently, and with meaningful consideration of impacts on local communities, land use, and the environment. This legislation promotes smarter grid planning by encouraging the use of advanced technologies that can increase capacity, reduce the need for new overhead lines, and minimize disruption to residents and natural resources. It strikes an important balance between meeting our climate goals and protecting community interests.

For these reasons, Indivisible Howard County strongly supports this bill and believes it represents a forward-looking approach to energy infrastructure development in Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Sidaarth Karegowdra
Columbia, Maryland