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Support with Amendment HB 40 (SB 201)

Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advanced Transmission Technologies

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Dear Chairman Koman, Vice Chair Guyton and E and T Committee Members:

I am a resident of northern Baltimore County and I have been supportive of proposed alternatives to the MPRP project. I am aware that the use of existing power lines with upgraded conductors has been presented as one option to increasing power line capacity as an alternative to the MPRP project. Clearly the proposals in this bill are meant to set the stage for such alternatives.

My main concern however is that I live near one of those existing power lines which is quite visible from my home. There has been a helicopter flying back and forth along this power line for the past three weeks. At times it hovers directly over the tower with cables and something attached. I have tried to find out from BGE what is going on but the receptionist denies that anything is happening. Clearly BGE must know about the helicopter making repeated trips along this power line. I suspect that the trips by the helicopter are related in some way to the use of existing power lines to increase power line capacity.

As I read the bill, it does not seem to offer the same safeguards for the use of existing power lines as it would for constructing new power lines. In addition, the existing bill, while requiring safeguards re the environment, it

says nothing about safety for humans. I ask that such requirements be added to the bill to ensure the safety and health of humans, wildlife and the environment of those living near existing power lines, especially where expansion of the power load is a possibility.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Please amend HB40 (SB 201) to include these protections.

Sincerely,

Emily Tarsell
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