



HB0040 - SUPPORT
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HB0040 – Public Utilities – Transmission Lines – Advances Transmission Technologies

Meeting of the Environment and Transportation Committee

February 3, 2026

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee, on behalf of Elders Climate Action Maryland, I urge a favorable report on HB0040.

Elders Climate Action is a nationwide organization devoted to ensuring that our children, grandchildren, and future generations have a world in which they can thrive. The Maryland Chapter has members across the state.

Each day, we see the climate crisis more clearly. We know Maryland is at risk for sea level rise, flooding from intense rainfall, heat waves, and other extreme weather events. Maryland can also be a leader in moving us to a safer, cleaner future where we all can thrive. The clean energy transition is an essential part of that future.

We are also acutely aware of the rapid rise in utility bills Maryland households and businesses are facing. For those of us on fixed incomes, including many of our members, this is a growing concern.

Advanced transmission technologies (ATTs) include grid-enhancing technologies, high-performing conductors and storage. These technologies can make our existing grid more efficient. They are cost-effective and can be deployed more rapidly than building new transmission lines. ATTs can also reduce the need for new

transmission lines, which, in turn, reduces land use impacts, while improving grid reliability.

ATTs can also help with the integration of renewable resources into the grid. Those resources are the least expensive and cleanest sources of the power we need and can be added to the grid much faster than a new gas or nuclear power plant.

For all of these reasons, we strongly urge a favorable report on HB0040. Thank you.