



Testimony on: HB0040 – Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

Submitting: Gwen DuBois

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 3, 2026

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today on HB0040. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB0040.

The MLC Climate Justice Wing supports HB0040 because it would save ratepayers money, reduce the impacts of new transmission lines, and allow more renewable energy sources to come online instead of relying on polluting, greenhouse gas (GHG) producing fossil fuel sources. This bill will move us closer to achieving our net zero GHG emission goals, all while helping Marylanders have a more affordable, healthier, and reliable electricity grid.

HB0040 requires utilities and other transmission owners to analyze and report on advanced transmission technology (ATT) alternatives when applying to Public Service Commission (PSC) for a permit (CPCN) to develop new transmission lines. In addition, they would be required to report every 4 years whether advanced transmission technologies could decrease the cost of congestion for ratepayers.

ATT refers to both grid enhancing technologies (GETs) and advanced conductors. Grid enhancing technologies, also known as “flexible technologies,” include, *dynamic rating system technology* that takes weather and other real time conditions into account to adjust transmission capacity (and which may increase capacity by up to 70%), *advanced power flow technology* that can adjust and reroute power flow to relieve congestion, and *topology optimization 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 to deploy (3 years or less vs 10 years), cheaper, cleaner, more flexible, and less socially disruptive than constructing new transmission power lines running through private property (like homes and farmland) and public conservation and recreation lands. For example, the [Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project is extremely controversial](#) with opposition from landowners, farmers, communities and elected officials. Additionally, Maryland is faced with skyrocketing utility bills while struggling to deliver the right amount of power to the right regions of the state. Building new transmission lines is extremely expensive and highly controversial. Case in point, Maryland ratepayers will bear the [\\$796 million cost for making transmission upgrades](#) to handle the planned retirement of the Brandon Shores and Wagner power plants. Furthermore, ATTs

can avoid GHG emissions by making it possible for more renewable energy sources to connect to the grid and avoid health harms from pollution from the coal and gas power plants needed temporarily while awaiting the completion of new transmission. ATTs would help Maryland transition towards the carbon free grid we need by helping get more out of the grid we already have.

Finally, ATTs avoids the environmental injustice that results from fossil fuel powered generating plants, which frequently 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.”

Although not totally avoiding building new transmission lines in the future, ATT creates the possibility of increasing additional energy transmission in the short term, reducing costs, and speeding up the 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.

For these reasons we ask for a FAVORABLE report.

- 350MoCo
- Adat Shalom Climate Action
- Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
- Chesapeake Earth Holders
- Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Climate Communications Coalition
- Climate Parents of Prince George’s
- Climate Reality Greater Maryland
- ClimateXChange
- Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
- DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
- Echotopia
- Elders Climate Action
- Fix Maryland Rail
- Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
- Greenbelt Climate Action Network
- HoCoClimateAction
- Howard County Indivisible
- Maryland Legislative Coalition
- Maryland Energy Advocates
- Maryland Third Act
- Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund
- Mobilize Frederick
- Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
- Montgomery Countryside Alliance
- Mountain Maryland Movement
- Nuclear Information & Resource Service
- Progressive Maryland
- Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
- Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
- The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
- Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland