

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

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Submitting: Rhonda Kranz

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 3, 2026

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in support of HB0040– Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies. I have been a resident of Maryland for over thirty years and am concerned with the increasing danger from our aging electric grid and rising demand for energy. HB0040 will move us forward in addressing these serious issues in a sensible and productive manner.

Maryland needs to prepare for a major increase in energy needs in response to the current push for development, especially high energy consumption data centers, and the increased need for heating and cooling our homes from climate change impacts, such as what we have been dealing with over this last week.

We have to be thoughtful when planning how we address these concerns. HB0040 takes that approach. It will 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. It 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.

For these reasons I urge you to vote favorable for HB0040.