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BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

February 24, 2026

Honorable Chair Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation committee,

I write to you in support of **House Bill 928 Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity – Transmission Lines – Applicability and Waivers.**

The Baltimore Gas & Electric Company is currently planning to build a \$537 million underground transmission line through South Baltimore. It is not clear why this project is necessary, and the costs to ratepayers could be great. And Baltimoreans will be limited in their ability to get answers to these questions—due to a loophole in State law, this project will be reviewed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), rather than the Public Service Commission (PSC). By requiring applicants to receive certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) for all transmission lines over 69,000 volts, *not just overhead transmission lines*, HB928 closes this loophole.

This bill also specifies factors the PSC must consider when determining whether to waive the CPCN requirement for transmission for “good cause.” This will ensure that the relevant factors, most importantly cost to ratepayers, are considered before the CPCN requirement is waived for transmission projects.

I urge the committee to vote favorably on this bill. Please contact my office with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Zeke Cohen, Baltimore City Council President

CC:
Shamoyia Gardiner, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director
Ethan Hasiuk, Deputy Legislative Director