
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

February 17, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 630 – Overhead Transmission Lines and Eminent Domain – Property Value – Damages

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the citizens of Harford County, I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 630.

The power of eminent domain is one of the most significant authorities granted to government and utilities, and with that authority must come a clear and fair commitment to protecting the rights of property owners. While infrastructure improvements are sometimes necessary to meet statewide energy needs, homeowners should not be forced to bear disproportionate financial losses when projects negatively impact their property values.

Senate Bill 630 recognizes an important reality: the impacts of large overhead transmission lines often extend well beyond the land that is physically acquired. Residents living adjacent to or near these projects may experience measurable declines in property value, yet under current law they frequently have limited options for seeking compensation. This legislation restores balance by ensuring that homeowners have a fair opportunity to pursue damages when they are adversely affected by projects implemented through eminent domain.

Property ownership represents one of the most significant investments families make. When government action or utility projects diminish that investment, citizens deserve transparency, fairness, and a meaningful path to seek relief. SB 630 strengthens confidence in the eminent domain process by reinforcing the principle that the burden of public infrastructure should not fall unfairly on individual property owners.

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Additionally, by allowing recovery of reasonable legal costs under certain circumstances, the bill helps ensure that residents are not discouraged from defending their rights simply because of the financial barriers associated with litigation.

Harford County supports responsible infrastructure development, but it must be achieved in a manner that respects private property rights and treats residents fairly. Senate Bill 630 strikes an appropriate balance between infrastructure needs and homeowner protections.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 630.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the people of Maryland.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Cassilly