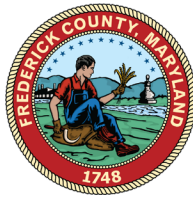


Jessica Fitzwater  
County Executive



Brad W. Young  
County Council President

## FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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August 8, 2024

Jason Kalwa, Project Manager  
James Gilroy, State Government Affairs  
Public Service Enterprise Group, Inc. (PSEG)  
80 Park Plaza  
Newark, NJ 07102-4194

Dear Mr. Kalwa and Mr. Gilroy:

We have heard the voices of the residents of Frederick County and echo their concerns regarding the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) and the impact of the proposed 500Kv transmission line on individual property owners, businesses, historic and environmental resources, and the community at large. We fully understand the need to improve the resiliency and reliability of the regional electrical grid to ensure the dependability of the electrical supply; however, there needs to be more dialogue before this project moves forward.

We support good public processes, open and transparent government, and the right for residents to be heard. On this issue, we believe much more communication and dialogue is warranted. Thus, we request PSEG conduct a more transparent and inclusive public process, including multiple additional well-advertised public meetings and mailed notification to all affected property owners. This process should precede the submission of any formal application to the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC). There needs to be more information available to the public regarding the need for these new lines as well as numerous alternate options for the location of these lines.

We request PSEG be responsive to all public input that has been provided, including optimizing the use of current and/or parallel transmission line alignments and avoiding homes and businesses, including agritourism ventures. Open space and historic sites are critical to our quality of life, and we oppose the placement of lines on land or historic sites preserved with federal, state, or local investments or protected by federal, state, or local designations. We have heard from residents who are especially concerned about the potential impact on the Peace and Plenty Rural Historic District and Hope Hill, an historically black rural community that dates to the middle of the nineteenth century.

We have serious concerns about any use of eminent domain to expedite the completion of this project. The use of eminent domain frequently leads to the displacement of businesses and residents and could seriously harm the agricultural community and the growing agritourism sector of our economy. Given the current locations of the numerous transmission lines already crisscrossing Frederick County, not paralleling existing lines or locating the new lines within existing rights-of-way could have a devastating impact on our residents, farmers, the County's historic and land preservation efforts, and the growing tourism economy.

While we recognize that Frederick County has no authority or role in the approval or disapproval of this project, we nevertheless support our residents in their advocacy to protect their homes and businesses, as

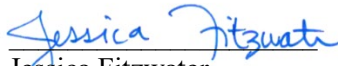
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well as the agricultural heritage, environmental resources, and valued historic amenities in our community. We strongly encourage you to engage in a more meaningful dialogue with the community before moving forward with the process and submitting any application to the PSC.

We thank you for your time and consideration of our requests.

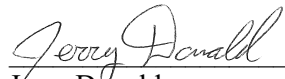
Sincerely,



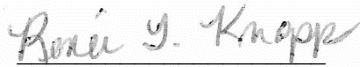
Jessica Fitzwater  
County Executive



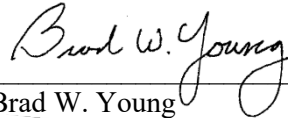
Kavonté Duckett  
County Council Vice President



Jerry Donald  
County Council Member



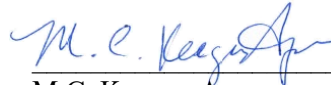
Renee Knapp  
County Council Member



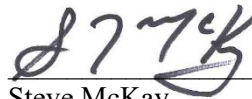
Brad W. Young  
County Council President



Mason Carter  
County Council Member



M.C. Keegan-Ayer  
County Council Member



Steve McKay  
County Council Member