THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

August 27, 2024

PJM Interconnection
P.O. Box 1525
Southeastern, PA 19399-1525

Re: Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP)

Dear Mr. Manu Asthana,

We are writing to voice our concerns regarding the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP), specifically the ramifications it will have on our most rural and preserved farmlands. Many of our constituents have voiced uncertainties around eminent domain, just compensation for their lands should their properties be expropriated, decreased productivity of their farmlands and decreased agricultural economic growth for our state.

As you are aware, the MPRP is a new transmission project awarded to the Public Service Enterprise Group by PJM. As the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO), we understand PJM's responsibility for operating and planning the regional electric grid in all parts of the thirteen states, plus the District of Columbia, to include planning for the future needs of the electric system under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

While we recognize the importance of ensuring reliable transmission, we share in the concerns of our constituents. We believe there are alternative methods which should be considered paired with comprehensive community outreach and engagement.

"Grid enhancing technologies (GETs) and advanced reconductoring, the energy efficiency tools of the power grid, can help increase the capacity of the grid faster and without building new lines. By increasing the capacity of existing lines, the grid can transmit more electricity without the lengthy planning and permitting process required for new transmission build. While construction of new transmission will still be needed to support the U.S. energy transition, these alternative approaches serve an important need, especially in the near-term.

Types of technologies:

1. **Dynamic Line Ratings** – Measure the true conditions and temperature of a line to determine its capacity. The capacity of lines can increase by 50% in cold temperatures.

2. **Advance Power Flow Control** – Hardware and software balance overloaded or underutilized corridors of transmission, avoiding overflows of electricity in some areas of underutilization.

3. **Topology Optimization** – Software is used to track the best route and combination of lines for transferring power. The software can then turn off/change power lines that are in use to optimize the existing grid network.

4. **Advance Reconductoring** – Replacing old conductors on existing transmission lines with new ones that have higher capacity for electrical current." (National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL), Transmission Briefing Book, 2024, p.9)

Employing these technologies can be done on existing right of way, thus, mitigating cost of construction, reducing legal challenges from landowners, and avoiding the Certificate Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process. Perhaps we can consider co-locations for additional generation with the use of micros or SMRs at our existing nuclear site.

Paired with these recommendations, our constituents deserve answers and transparency. Our constituents have significant concerns regarding the intended and unintended consequences of this proposed project. We implore PJM and PSEG to be present and provide our constituents with updated information as the process continues. Beyond the two public information sessions held in early July 2024, we hope to see more spaces created for the community to share their concerns, questions, and receive direct responses from PJM.

Striking a balance between preserving our environment and reliability is of utmost importance. We trust these recommendations will be met with open consideration and appreciate your attention to preserving the farmlands of our county. Further, we would be happy to meet with you to discuss the scope and potential impacts of this project on our communities.

Thank you for your kind attention.

With kindest regards,

Senator Benjamin Brooks
10th Legislative District

Senator Shelly Hettleman
11th Legislative District

Senator JB Jennings
7th Legislative District

Senator Kathy Klausmeier
8th Legislative District

Senator Charles Sydnor
44B Legislative District

Delegate Eric Ebersole
44A Legislative District

Delegate Michele Guyton
42B Legislative District

Delegate Carl Jackson
8th Legislative District

Delegate Aletheia McCaskill
44B Legislative District

Delegate N. Scott Phillips
10th Legislative District

Delegate Dana Stein
11B Legislative District

Senator Chris West
42nd Legislative District

Delegate Cathi Forbes
43B Legislative District

Delegate Jennifer White Holland
10th Legislative District

Delegate Nino Mangione
42A Legislative District

Delegate Cheryl Pasteur
11A Legislative District

Delegate Ryan Nawrocki
7A Legislative District

Delegate Kathy Szeliga
7A Legislative District