

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive



Brad W. Young
County Council President

FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

November 18, 2024

Frederick H. Hoover, Chairman
Maryland Public Service Commission
6 Saint Paul Street, 16th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: Frederick County Government Opposition to the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project

Dear Chairman Hoover:

As the elected leaders of Frederick County Government, we are writing to inform the members of the Public Service Commission (PSC) of our total opposition to the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP).

The law is clear: Frederick County Government cannot stop MPRP. Maryland courts have held that once the PSC “has by order authorized the erection of power lines along a designated route, little more remains for a local government to do except perform the ministerial duty of issuing the necessary building permits.” *Potomac Electric Power Company v Montgomery County*, 80 Md. App. 107, 118 (1989). All we can do as local elected officials is advocate for our community by amplifying our residents’ voices and expressing our opposition to the project.

We wrote to the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) on August 8th to outline our concerns with the project, including optimizing the use of current and/or parallel transmission line alignments to avoid homes, businesses, and farms. We expressed firm opposition to 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 also expressed serious concern about the use of eminent domain to complete the project. We asked PSEG to engage in a more meaningful dialogue with our community before moving forward with the project.

To PSEG’s credit, company representatives attended a town hall meeting in Frederick County on October 9th, where they listened and answered our community’s questions to the best of their ability. They subsequently announced an alignment that incorporated some of the feedback they received. Unfortunately, they did not address all the issues raised in our August 8th letter.

Company representatives returned to Frederick County Thursday night for a public information session. Hundreds of our neighbors attended, and dozens spoke. They expressed their frustration, anxiety, and anger about the project itself and the mixed messages they have been given. No one spoke in support of MPRP, and it is clear that our residents continue to have good reasons to oppose the project.

We know you will engage in a transparent and inclusive public process and conduct a thorough and thoughtful analysis once you receive PSEG’s application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). As part of your work, we invite you to come to Frederick County to hear directly from our residents whose quality of life will be directly and negatively affected by the project. We stand ready to assist you with any logistics related to a public meeting.

Frederick County: Rich History, Bright Future

Winchester Hall • 12 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • 301-600-1100 • Fax 301-600-1050
www.FrederickCountyMD.gov

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

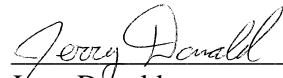
Sincerely,



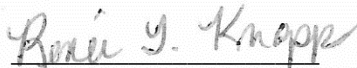
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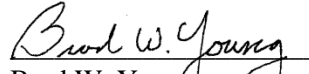
Kavonté Duckett
County Council Vice President



Jerry Donald
County Council Member



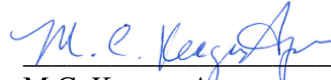
Renee Knapp
County Council Member



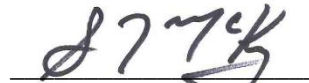
Brad W. Young
County Council President



Mason Carter
County Council Member



M.C. Keegan-Ayer
County Council Member



Steve McKay
County Council Member