

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**

RESOLUTION NO. 25-05

Effective Date: February 4, 2025

Re: Frederick County Council's Opposition to the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project

A RESOLUTION of the Frederick County Council opposing the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project ("MPRP") and: (1) encouraging the Maryland Public Service Commission ("PSC") to reject the MPRP; (2) encouraging the Maryland General Assembly to require that all Maryland public utilities conduct a full Integrated Resource Plan bi-annually that is evaluated by the PSC; and (3) encouraging State elected leaders to establish and implement a Maryland Coordinated Planning Group as a collaborative organization to play a key role in planning and coordinating the electric transmission system in Maryland.

WHEREAS, the MPRP is a proposal for a new greenfield transmission line project, encompassing a 67-mile-long 500-kV electrical transmission line beginning near the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant in southern Pennsylvania and crossing Baltimore, Carroll, and Frederick Counties, and ending at the Doubs substation in southern Frederick County; and

WHEREAS, the MPRP has been proposed by Pennsylvania-New-Jersey-Maryland Interconnection, L.L.C. ("PJM"), the FERC-approved Regional Transmission Organization that determines the electricity needs for 13 states – including Maryland and Virginia – in the Mid-Atlantic region and directs operation of regional transmission facilities; and

WHEREAS, PJM selected Public Service Enterprise Group, Inc. ("PSEG") – an electric utility serving customers in New Jersey – as the public utility to design, finance, construct, and operate the MPRP transmission lines, which includes securing all state and federal regulatory approvals and permits; and

WHEREAS, on 31 December 2024, PSEG submitted an application to the PSC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") for the MPRP as a necessary precondition for initiating the transmission line project and to allow for eminent domain proceedings against landowners in Baltimore, Carroll, and Frederick Counties; and

WHEREAS, Frederick County, including through the assistance of State and Federal funding, has placed a high priority on preserving agricultural land and ensuring the continued vitality of agricultural production and agritourism enterprises in Frederick County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed MPRP alignment will directly and negatively impact 131 agriculturally-zoned parcels and severely disrupt agricultural operations, devalue agricultural land values, and may result in the loss of numerous small farms that often represent multi-generational farm families in Frederick County; and

regional natural resource, encompassing sensitive environmental areas, agricultural, and historic resources that benefits the entire Washington Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, the proposed MPRP alignment will directly and negatively impact the Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Area, including over 728 acres on 13 agriculturally-zoned properties, a half mile of sensitive floodplain on five properties, three Forest Resource Ordinance (“FRO”) easements, and five significant historic resources; and

WHEREAS, the proposed MPRP alignment will directly and negatively impact other sensitive environmental resources in Frederick County, including ten properties with existing FRO easements, 23 properties covering 1.65 miles of FEMA floodplain, and would cross wetlands, streams, and forests, sacrificing thousands of trees, that filter our air, buffer our streams, and mitigate climate change across the region, with as yet unknown consequences; and

WHEREAS, the proposed MPRP alignment will directly and negatively impact 8 historic resources in Frederick County, and indirectly impact 19 additional historic resources, posing potentially significant harm to the historic character, cultural impact, and adaptive re-use potential of these resources; and

WHEREAS, the proposed MPRP alignment will directly and negatively impact 156 total parcels in Frederick County, most of which include residential structures whose property values will be significantly harmed by the new transmission line; and

WHEREAS, the negative economic impact on residential property values will extend beyond directly affected parcels to adjoining residential properties, representing a significant economic harm to these residential property owners with no prospective compensation from the MPRP developer; and

WHEREAS, it is clear that the proposed MPRP alignment will have a significant negative impact on Frederick County in many ways; and

WHEREAS, PJM is currently evaluating a proposal under their 2024 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (RTEP) Window 1 Reliability analysis that would remove the MPRP connection to the Doubs substation in southern Frederick County, and re-route the transmission line directly to northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in October 2024, the Loudon County Electrical Infrastructure Study projected an electric load growth for data centers in that northern Virginia county which was 44% higher than projections by PJM which precipitated the MPRP project award; and

WHEREAS, representatives from both Quantum Loophole (the former development lead for the data center campus in southern Frederick County), and Aligned Data Centers (developing a portion of the aforementioned data center campus), have both indicated that their data center plans are not dependent on additional transmission capacity provided by MPRP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Frederick County Council encourages the Maryland General Assembly and Governor Wes Moore to enact and implement a Maryland Coordinated Planning Group – a voluntary group comprised of utilities, transmission operators, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders involved in the electric power industry within Maryland – to increase Maryland’s negotiating power and standing with Regional Transmission Organizations like PJM; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to: the Governor of the State of Maryland; Frederick County’s delegation to the Maryland General Assembly; the Maryland Public Service Commission; the Maryland Office of People’s Counsel; and the Frederick County Executive; and

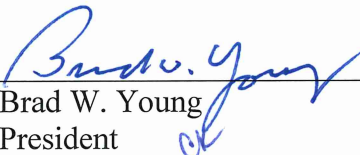
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage by the County Council.

The undersigned hereby certifies that this Resolution was approved and adopted on the 4th day of February, 2025.

ATTEST:

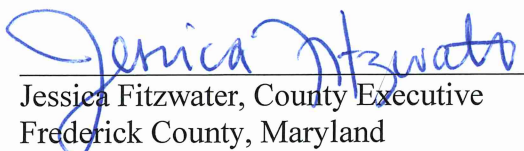
COUNTY COUNCIL OF
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND


Ragen Cherney
Council Chief of Staff

By: 
Brad W. Young
President

Received by the County Executive on 2/06/2025.

County Executive Action: ☒ Approved ☐ Vetoed ☐ No Action


Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, Maryland

2/7/25
Date