

**Maryland House Economic Matters Committee**  
**March 5, 2020**

**Testimony in Opposition to HB 1014**

Transource Energy, LLC (“Transource”) is a joint venture between American Electric Power (“AEP”) and Evergy Transmission Company, LLC (“Evergy”). Collectively, AEP and Evergy manage approximately 44,000 circuit miles of transmission lines in the United States and serve more than 6 million customers.

House Bill 1014 is unnecessary. Maryland’s current Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“CPCN”) process is already a robust review and approval process that includes a thorough evaluation of environmental and societal impacts as well as extensive stakeholder engagement. During the evaluation of whether to grant a CPCN, the Maryland Public Service Commission considers the area’s land use, conservation easements, and environmental impacts of any potential transmission line project and actively facilitates and considers feedback from the communities impacted by the transmission line project. Furthermore, the Commission also already considers the use, when feasible, of existing transmission lines pursuant to Section 7-209 of the Public Utilities Article. House Bill 1014 would unnecessarily restrict the ability of the MD PSC to appropriately site needed transmission facilities.

The proposed legislation restricting new transmission lines within 1 mile of a conservation easement would severely limit new transmission lines from being sited in Maryland, driving up ratepayer costs, and often impeding altogether the construction and rebuilding of necessary infrastructure, including infrastructure necessary to ensure the safety and reliability of Maryland’s electric system and necessary to implement important policy goals, such as the development and delivery of renewable and low-cost energy. The existing CPCN process and the extensive review of the Maryland agencies already adequately accounts for conservation easements and it is ultimately the job of the Maryland PSC to determine where the facilities should be located and balance societal and environmental impacts with the need to ensure a safe, economic, and reliable grid. The proposed legislation would severely limit where facilities could be located, often increasing not only costs, but impacts to other resources and stakeholders as well. The proposed legislation would cripple even routine rebuild projects where conservation easements were granted well *after* the development of the existing transmission facilities.

HB 1014 would add counterproductive and impractical, often nearly-impossible-to-satisfy, requirements that would encumber the effective existing CPCN approval process and unnecessarily interfere with the Commission’s mandate to ensure safe, reliable, and cost-effective energy supply in the State. The bill would severely restrict any future overhead electric transmission infrastructure development in the State of Maryland that are needed to ensure reliability of electric service, safety and affordable prices. HB 1014 would negatively impact interstate commerce, and will result in higher electricity rates for Maryland residents and businesses.

**For these reasons, Transource Energy is opposed to HB1014 and urges an unfavorable report.**  
Thank you.