

February 21, 2023

Maryland General Assembly
Economic Matters Committee
Legislative Services Building
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB1103: Electric Companies - Reliability Standards

Dear Committee Members,

This is Ira Gewanter writing from 5809 Stuart Ave., Baltimore MD 21215.

I have been asked to provide this testimony on behalf of all my neighbors, as our side of the block endure outages that last days at a time, even when there is no storm wreaking havoc on the power lines. Moreover, when there actually is a major storm, we tend to lose power first and have it restored last, because BGE understandably focuses on broader outages affecting many more customers before circling back to us.

Through Delegate Isaac Schleifer's advocacy, BGE plugged some sort of special monitor into my house's meter to try capturing data on our block's situation, but it was removed after roughly two months, and we frankly wonder what special data could have been gleaned relating to the frequency of outages that isn't already available from each time they are reported, and repair service is dispatched.

While we were also grateful to see that a crew was sent to trim trees up and down our street, this was ironically just a few days before the most recent storm which struck over the winter holiday break. Unfortunately, the tree service failed to solve our problem, as we almost immediately found ourselves without power for nearly five days. (This was yet another instance in which we lost power in broad daylight, well before the storm even struck!)

All we know for certain is that the current situation is untenable, as it continues to disrupt our lives and cause us to incur substantial monetary losses when it comes to replacing refrigerators full of food, lost work time, and more.

*Note: We have learned that our neighbors in the Pill Hill area of Mt. Washington are getting their power lines moved underground, and there are questions about how this process was initiated, and whether we may be eligible for a similar accommodation.

Thanks in advance for your support of this bill as I along with my neighbors are eager for a long-term solution to the frustrating status quo.

Best,



Ira Gewanter
410-868-0451