



February 9, 2023

112 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Letter of Information – House Bill 62- Land Use- Public Service Companies- Pollinator-Friendly Vegetation Management

Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Delmarva Power & Light Company (Delmarva Power) respectfully submit this letter of information on House Bill 62- Land Use- Public Service Companies- Pollinator-Friendly Vegetation Management. House Bill 62 would prohibit local jurisdictions from imposing certain limitations and land use restrictions on pollinator-friendly vegetation management activities of public service companies within property, easements, or rights-of-way of public service companies under certain conditions.

Pepco and Delmarva Power remain dedicated to supporting pollinator habitats; however, we are concerned about the narrow mowing windows in this legislation which could compromise our obligation to maintain a safe and reliable electric system. As currently written, a mowing window of only February or March reduces operational flexibility, especially in years when cold weather persists through February.

Supporting pollinator habitats and biodiversity is an integral part of Pepco and Delmarva Power's operations, with an emphasis on transforming transmission rights-of-way throughout Maryland into a more welcoming place for pollinators to live. Pepco and Delmarva Power actively manage over 20,000 acres of rights-of-way. On 5,121 acres the companies use Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) to improve wildlife habitats and has a goal to increase that number to 6,034 acres by 2028.

Pollinators are essential to preserving a healthy ecosystem and we are committed to expanding and protecting the habitats where they live and breed. We have a responsibility to protect wildlife, including pollinators. Strategies to protect these habitats as part of the energy work, we do are a key opportunity for us to improve the environment we all share and we appreciate the bill sponsors for sponsoring this legislation. Pepco and Delmarva Power understand that House Bill 62 is well intentioned and if the Committee is inclined to pursue this legislation, we respectfully ask to continue conversations with the bill sponsors as to how we can address our concerns.

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