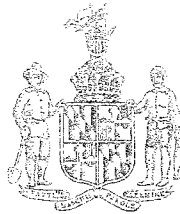


ALEX X. MOONEY  
Legislative District 3  
Frederick and Washington Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Joint Committee on Investigation



Legislative and District Office  
James Senate Office Building  
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3575 · 301-858-3575  
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Alex.Mooney@senate.state.md.us

*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 12, 2009

The Honorable Governor Martin J. O'Malley  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley,

I write to you today to urge your action to call for an independent study on the proposed Potomac-Appalachian Highline (PATH) project by Allegheny Energy.

I have been in contact with Douglas Kaplan and Peter and Barbara Luchsinger, members of the Sugarloaf Conservancy, who have contacted your office seeking assistance in this important matter. They and I urge your swift action to call for an independent study of the merits of using underground High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) for the PATH project instead of overhead transmission lines.

We stress the urgency of such an action happening before Allegheny Power submits their application to the Public Service Commission on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

The concerns of the citizens mirror very closely the concerns you have voiced about power infrastructure in the past. In a July 6, 2007 letter to the U.S. Department of Energy, you wrote the following:

Maryland has worked hard and expended millions of dollars to establish one of the nation's most encompassing programs to preserve lands and resources, including State parks and recreation areas, green spaces, agricultural easements, historical and archaeological resources, and conservation easements. These areas must be afforded appropriate protections from...adverse and permanent impacts....

The towers and overhead transmission lines of the PATH project threaten the "green spaces" and "agricultural easements" that you have fought so hard for in the State of Maryland. The Sugarloaf Conservancy has offered a promising alternative to the intrusive and visually obstructing overhead transmission lines.

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
March 12, 2009  
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We are not asking for an outright rejection of the PATH proposal, however. We simply would like an independent review of less damaging alternatives, such as HVDC.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in a bipartisan manner on issues where we agree and are important to the citizens of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex", written in a cursive style.

Senator Alex X. Mooney

Cc: Douglas Kaplan  
Peter and Barbara Luchsinger  
Jan Gardner, President Frederick County Commissioners