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February 24, 2009

Delegate Richard Weldon
House Office Building, Room 324
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Proposed Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline (PATH) Project
and
House Bill 480 / Senate Bill 352–Public Utility Tree Management Act of 2009**

Dear Senator Mooney:

As the subject line above indicates, we write you with two purposes.

First, we want to express a “thank you” for the Frederick County delegation’s letter of January 30 to Mr. Hosier of Allegheny Energy Inc. In that letter you call upon PATH’s planners to seriously consider and study underground HVDC technology for the PATH project to save Frederick County from the damages of their currently proposed massive 765KV “high-line” construction. Your advocacy for a responsible planning approach to the PATH project is greatly appreciated.

Secondly, we write to urge you to support and vote for the Public Utility Tree Management Act of 2009 (HB480 / SB352). It is time that utilities are called upon to plan projects with the Maryland environment and community interest in mind. In the case of PATH, Allegheny Energy has demonstrated a cavalier disregard for the conservation of Maryland’s forests and trees. In the case of the “high-line” route that PATH currently proposes through our community, the construction would remove the few trees that currently shield us from the ugliness of an existing nearby transmission line and then add the proposed massive 765KV PATH towers and lines. The result would be a wide industrial wasteland view in what is now a beautiful residential and rural community. And the view is not the only problem – the haphazard fragmentation of forests due to an above ground PATH route would make the surviving forest islands susceptible to further unnatural shrinkage in the future.

In closing, we extend our sincere thanks to you for listening to our concerns and standing up in defense of the citizens, neighborhoods, and environment of Frederick County. Support and vote for the Public Utility Tree Management Act of 2009 (HB480 / SB352).

Sincerely,

Ron Roos

Kelsey Roos