



May 31, 2009

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor, State of Maryland
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

On behalf of Sugarloaf Conservancy I would first like to express our appreciation to you for your participation in the letter signed by ten east coast Governors sent to congressional leaders dealing with the subject of the transmission of energy from the Midwest.

This coming Wednesday, June 3rd the PSC will decide whether to accept or deny Allegheny Energy's application to construct the PATH transmission line. Sugarloaf Conservancy has sent a letter to the PSC requesting the application be denied, as it would be detrimental to achieving the desired results so eloquently outlined in the Governors' letter.

We fully support and agree that locally generated wind power will be far more efficient than bringing the power from the Midwest. The Department of Energy has confirmed that the potential of onshore and offshore wind power is significant. The Governors in your letter stated, "a ratepayer-funded revenue guarantee for land-based wind and other generation resources in the Great Plains would have significant, negative consequences for our region; it would hinder our efforts to meet regional renewable energy goals with regional resources and would establish financial conditions in our electricity markets that would impede development of the vast wind resources onshore and just off our shores for decades to come."

This is precisely the negative consequence that will result if the PATH project is constructed and unless it is stopped immediately it will surely delay any hope of providing for our power through regional renewable energy projects. As quoted above the "ratepayer-funded revenue guarantee" is precisely the situation for the PATH project. With Allegheny Energy's guaranteed 14.3% profit from FERC, it is the ratepayers who will finance this project and the end result will be high prices being paid for low cost coal generation. Would any company invest resources into creating renewable energy resources for the east coast with the likelihood of a new transmission line being created to bring cheap coal-fired energy from the Midwest?

Although we understand that in normal situations a process would be followed through the PSC, given the unique situation, which includes reduced energy usage (time to step back and make sure a comprehensive energy plan is developed) and the intent to create east coast renewable wind power, it is paramount that the PATH application not be approved. It is for this reason you should again take a leadership position and put an immediate halt to this project by requesting PATH's application be denied. Waiting for the PSC process to take place over a year would be detrimental to solving our energy needs.

We respectfully ask that you consider this matter, since through your actions you have shown you are a forward thinking leader, and can now promote the position you have taken through direct action by requesting the PSC deny the PATH application.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Kaplan

President

Sugarloaf Conservancy

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