



DORCHESTER CITIZENS FOR SAFE ENERGY

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Coalition Calls for Comprehensive Review of MAPP Project *26 local, statewide & national groups sign letter to Governor*

Cambridge, Maryland – June 30, 2009 –Dorchester Citizens for Safe Energy (DCSE), an alliance of more than a thousand Dorchester County residents concerned about the Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP) transmission line and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC), a private, nonprofit land conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of farmland and habitat on the Eastern Shore, have joined with 24 other local, statewide and national groups in signing a letter to Governor Martin O'Malley. In the letter, the 26 organizations applaud the Governor's support for comprehensive transmission line planning, which he advocated in a 2007 letter to then U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman. This same message was echoed in a May 4th letter to the U.S. Congressional leadership signed by ten Governors, including Mr. O'Malley. In the letter the 26 groups also praise the Governor for his ongoing support for renewable energy, energy efficiency and the preservation of open space and environmental resources. The letter was given to the Governor on Sunday, June 28th, by Dorchester County Council president Jay Newcomb. The 26 signatories voiced their support for action by the Governor to implement "a truly comprehensive transmission line planning process through administrative order or other mechanisms."

Some of the issues cited by the 26 organizations include: inadequate review time to carry out a thorough, comprehensive review; focus on a transmission line as the single solution for achieving reliable, economical electric service rather than considering all reasonable options; and focusing on a single transmission line corridor rather than evaluating other, equally practical alignments.

DCSE president Libby Nagel said "We are not opposed to the MAPP project per se. However, we are deeply trouble by the proposal to construct the transmission line in a way that causes undue impacts to what is arguably one of the most sensitive areas on the Eastern Shore with regard to cultural and environmental resources." Ms. Nagel added that "she and a number of other farm and forest owners are troubled by the impact MAPP could have on agriculture and forestry, the two most important industries to the local economy."

This letter is one of many actions by DSCE and its coalition of supporters to ensure that MAPP is only approved once it has been shown to be: first, the best option for maintaining reliable electric service then that the line has been designed to minimize impacts. ESLC, one of DSCE's partners in this campaign,

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recently launched a full-scale action center aimed at informing local residents about the project. It will provide resources, news and links to help members of the community stay current and engaged with the project.

“Getting so many of our local organizations to band together to show their collective concern regarding this project says so much about the sentiment toward this project and we are proud to be part of this important effort” said Morgan Ellis, Regional Land Use Planner and spokesperson for the campaign. “This transmission line could completely and irrevocably alter the rural character of Dorchester County and we hope that Governor O’Malley and others will make sure that this project undergoes the level of scrutiny and review it needs to ensure that this does not happen.”

The letter was also signed by Wicomico Environmental Trust president Barry Johansson, who said "The Wicomico Environmental Trust has joined this coalition of other groups out of concern for the permanent degradation this project will do to extensive areas of environmentally sensitive lands on the Eastern Shore. If the MAPP project is found to be needed, which has not yet been demonstrated by the proponents, it should only be done after extensive review that will assure that the least damaging route is selected. We believe much more work needs to be done before MAPP is approved."

This transmission line requires a 200 foot right-of-way for the 140-150 foot high towers and could transect 27 miles (or more) of Dorchester County with large transmission towers. The rights-of-way required for these lines would consume large areas of Dorchester’s agriculture, forest and rural lands, many of which are critical to our cultural heritage and preserving fragile ecological areas such as Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

Signatories on the letter include the following:

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| <i>1000 Friends of Maryland</i> | <i>Maryland Chapter Sierra Club</i> |
| <i>African-American Land Trust</i> | <i>Maryland Forests Association</i> |
| <i>Assateague Coastal Trust</i> | <i>Maryland League of Conservation Voters</i> |
| <i>Association of Forest Industries</i> | <i>Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation</i> |
| <i>Clean Water Action</i> | <i>Maryland Public Interest Research Group</i> |
| <i>Dorchester Chamber of Commerce</i> | <i>National Wildlife Federation</i> |
| <i>Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth</i> | <i>Partners for Open Space</i> |
| <i>Dorchester Citizens for Safe Energy</i> | <i>Patuxent Riverkeeper</i> |
| <i>Eastern Shore Land Conservancy</i> | <i>Preservation Maryland</i> |
| <i>Environment Maryland</i> | <i>Sugarloaf Conservancy</i> |
| <i>Friends of the Nanticoke River</i> | <i>Talbot River Protection Association</i> |
| <i>Harriet Tubman Organization</i> | <i>The Nature Conservancy-Maryland/DC Chapter</i> |
| <i>Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway</i> | <i>Wicomico Environmental Trust</i> |

For a full copy of the letter to Governor O’Malley, plus the other documents referenced above, please visit: ceds.org/DCSE then click on: “Governor O’Malley & A Comprehensive Transmission Line Planning Process” For further detail please visit <http://www.eslc.org/pages/savedorchester.php>.

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