



Protecting Land Forever

As we face unprecedented demand for transmission of electricity across the state, the protection of the natural environment and open spaces that benefit the public are paramount interests for entities like the Maryland Environment Trust Board of Trustees (The Board). Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) exists to conserve and perpetuate the existence of Maryland's natural environment, land, water, air, wildlife, scenic qualities and open space. MET currently holds more than 1,300 conservation easements on over 142,000 acres of property across Maryland. MET is committed to protecting the conservation value of the properties in perpetuity when we accept these properties as easements.

MET recognizes that there can be competing interests when the desire for energy and the enormous benefits of land conservation come into conflict: however, we remain steadfast in the importance of upholding the conservation purpose and values of the easements we hold.

The Maryland Environmental Trust is monitoring the status of the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project. We are aware that your property is in line with the currently proposed route of installation. MET and other governmental units must follow procedure by submitting its comments and concerns through the Power Plant Research Program at the Maryland DNR, which will be coordinating a multi-agency review and analysis of the project for PSEG's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application to the Maryland Public Service Commission.

The Board will collaborate with local land trusts, landowners, and governmental entities to advocate for the continued protection of our natural environment as the electric utility companies submit their applications for approval to the Public Service Commission. We will focus on protecting easements and encourage using existing infrastructure pathways to accomplish the transmission of energy. Our intent is to keep open space open. The Board will add our stance to become another voice at the table and use our collective voices to help influence the process. The Board urges all those concerned about the project and its impact on protected lands and natural resources to email their comments to the Public Service Commission at piedmontcomments.psc@maryland.gov.

We will try to keep you informed of the status of the project as it pertains to your conservation easement property, but with so many different parties involved in this process, it is possible that you receive notification of developments before we do. Should you receive any new information you feel would be pertinent for MET to know to assist in protecting your easement, feel free to share it with us. Your property is an important part of our program, and we are committed to protecting Maryland's most treasured landscapes and natural resources, and value the partnership of easement landowners like yourself. Thank you.

Gary Burnett, Chair
Board of Trustees, Maryland Environmental Trust