Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 27, 2026

The Honorable Laura V. Swett
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Chairman Swett,

As members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation, we write regarding a pressing matter that has the potential to significantly raise energy costs for our constituents. PJM Interconnection LLC's (PJM) existing transmission cost allocation rules result in the unjust assignment of billions of dollars in costs to Marylanders, contributing to unaffordable electricity bills. This matter has been brought before the Commission by the Maryland Office of People's Counsel (OPC) (Docket: EL26-63), and the basic principle underpinning this issue is simple: our constituents should not be forced to pay for transmission projects that they did not cause and from which they will not meaningfully benefit.

Data centers being built outside of Maryland are driving one of the largest transmission expansions in PJM's history. Across its three most recent regional transmission planning rounds, PJM has advanced $22 billion in projects needed principally to serve data centers.[1] Under PJM's current cost allocation rules, roughly $2 billion of those costs have been assigned to Maryland ratepayers rather than the data centers that are driving the demand.[2]

Marylanders are already shouldering the immense burden of skyrocketing electricity costs, and it is unjust and unreasonable to force our constituents to subsidize the energy infrastructure needs of the wealthiest companies in the world. Unless the Commission acts, our constituents will pay an estimated $1.6 billion on their electric bills over the next ten years for these projects alone, and $823 million of that total cost will fall on residential customers, which equates to roughly $345 for the average customer.[3]

PJM's cost allocation rules have not kept pace with the build out of hyperscale data centers, just one of which can equal the electricity demand of a small city. PJM's current rules spread costs broadly across the region regardless of where, and for whom, the underlying projects are actually needed. Maryland regulators have no ability to assign such costs to data centers located in other states, and with tens of thousands of megawatts of additional data center demand growth projected across PJM over the next two decades,[4] our constituents face billions of dollars in further charges absent Commission action to address this unjust and unreasonable cost allocation. Furthermore, because much of the forecasted growth in data center energy demand is speculative,

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[1] Amended Complaint of the Maryland Office of People's Counsel at 9, *Maryland Office of People's Counsel v. PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.*, Docket No. EL26-63-000 (May 22, 2026), https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20260522-5245&optimized=false&sid=df54d0a3-76ae-4322-a66c-17b06e248230.

[2] OPC Amended Complaint at 2-3.

[3] OPC Amended Complaint at 18.

[4] PJM Interconnection, *2026 Long-Term Load Forecast Supplement* (Feb. 2026), https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/planning/res-adeq/load-forecast/load-forecast-supplement-2026.pdf.

our constituents bear the unacceptable risk of paying for projects built to serve potential data centers that are never built due to any number of external reasons.

We were encouraged by the Commission's June 18, 2026 orders directing PJM and five other grid operators to justify or reform how they assign the costs of serving large loads, which advance the essential goal of protecting ordinary consumers.[5] Those orders, however, are forward-looking. We also seek to obtain relief for our constituents from the billions in costs PJM has already assigned, and because most of those costs have not yet appeared on customer bills, timely Commission action can prevent much of this harm before it occurs.

We urge the Commission to act expeditiously to provide relief from these costs for Maryland ratepayers, including as requested in OPC's complaint. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue that is essential to ensuring just and reasonable energy costs for our constituents.

Sincerely,

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator

Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress

Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress

Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress

April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress

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[5] Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, "FERC Launches Aggressive Targeted Action to Speed Large Load Integration" (June 18, 2026), https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/news/ferc-launches-aggressive-targeted-action-speed-large-load-integration.

Johnny Olszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress