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Greater Remington Improvement Association Calls On BGE To Reconsider Overhead Transmission Line Route Through South Remington

Baltimore, MD – The Greater Remington Improvement Association (GRIA) today called on Baltimore Gas & Electric (BGE) to pause its planned installation of new high-voltage overhead transmission towers through South Remington and to conduct a renewed, transparent evaluation of a less disruptive alternative route before finalizing its plans.

The transmission line relocation is tied to Amtrak's Frederick Douglass Tunnel Initiative, which requires BGE to relocate existing 115kV transmission facilities currently located within Amtrak's Center Tunnel. BGE has proposed replacing the existing underground circuits with new overhead towers running through South Remington, a plan the community says was selected without adequate public input and without sufficient consideration of the neighborhood's long-term economic and quality-of-life impacts.

GRIA's position, formally adopted following extensive input from South Remington neighbors, does not dispute the need for a safe and reliable regional electric grid. Instead, the association is asking BGE to take a closer look at an option the utility already identified but dismissed: Alternative 3, the "CSX Bridge Crossing," which would route the new transmission infrastructure through the existing CSX rail corridor rather than constructing new overhead towers through a residential neighborhood.

"South Remington is being asked to carry a lasting burden so that an important regional infrastructure project can move forward. I support the residents in calling for BGE to make a substantial and lasting investment in the neighborhood, at a level that reflects the impact on the people who live and work there. The community should not simply be asked to absorb the cost of progress. It should share in the benefit." **Councilman Jermaine Jones**, Baltimore City Council, District 12

GRIA notes that circumstances on the CSX corridor have changed materially since BGE dismissed Alternative 3 as "too risky" in its filing. In early 2025, CSX decommissioned one of the rail lines on the relevant bridge, leaving only one of the original four tracks in active use, a



change GRIA believes significantly improves the feasibility of routing the new transmission infrastructure along that corridor instead of through South Remington's streets.

The association also points to concerns about the **public process that led to BGE's preferred route**. BGE told the Maryland Public Service Commission that 1,200 notification letters were mailed to residents, but many **South Remington residents and businesses report never receiving one**, and the sample letter provided as evidence made **no mention of overhead transmission lines**. Of the six routing alternatives BGE originally presented, the utility had already designated the overhead route as its preferred option at the time of its November 2024 filing, **before any public or municipal comment was possible**.

*“South Remington has never said no to infrastructure that keeps this region running — we've hosted it for generations,” said Wynnona Engle-Pratt, President of the Greater Remington Improvement Association. “What we're asking for is what any neighborhood deserves: a **real seat at the table before a permanent decision is made**, and a fair look at the alternative that does **the least harm to the people who live here**.”*

GRIA emphasizes that this is not simply a neighborhood concern. The position paper's analysis shows the proposed overhead route could decrease property values and potentially delay or significantly change the potential \$200 million in future mixed-use redevelopment in the sites immediately surrounding the transmission corridor. This would be a permanent, generational loss of tax base and investment for Baltimore City as a whole, not just South Remington

GRIA is requesting that BGE:

1. Conduct a renewed feasibility analysis of Alternative 3 (CSX Bridge Crossing) using current, post-2025 CSX bridge conditions;
2. Provide a transparent, public comparison of Alternative 3 and the proposed overhead route that accounts for long-term maintenance, economic, and community impacts, not just initial construction cost; and
3. Engage directly and meaningfully with South Remington residents and stakeholders before finalizing the project route.

South Remington is a historically working-class, increasingly diverse community of roughly 110 owner- and renter-occupied homes along with locally owned businesses including the James Beard Award–finalist restaurant Clavel, Guardian Baltimore, and Wright Way Studio. The neighborhood has already absorbed significant regional infrastructure burdens, including the loss of the Sisson Street Bridge, which has cut off convenient access to I-83 for seven years, and recurring outages tied to BGE's Center Substation, located within the neighborhood.

GRIA emphasizes that if the overhead route ultimately proceeds, BGE should make a substantial and lasting investment in South Remington commensurate with the permanent burden the neighborhood would carry on behalf of the wider region.



GRIA encourages residents and businesses who share these concerns to sign the community petition and to contact their elected officials in support of a transparent review of alternatives before the project route is finalized.

Read the full position paper on our website here <https://griaonline.org/advocacy/>

About the Greater Remington Improvement Association

The Greater Remington Improvement Association (GRIA) is a resident-run, nonprofit neighborhood association that works to retain the diversity, vibrancy, and community connectedness of the Remington neighborhood in Baltimore. GRIA provides an open forum for residents to discuss community issues and coordinates on land use, neighborhood improvement, and resident services. Learn more at www.griaonline.org.

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