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Sugarloaf Conservancy Puts its Case Against PATH "On the Road"

Drivers on I-270 will have something other than bumper stickers to ponder on their morning and evening commute – a new billboard urging them to "SAY NO to PATH". The sign is located on the I-270 southbound between the Urbana/Rte 80 exit and Hyattstown/Rte 109 exit.

Sugarloaf Conservancy has placed this sign to inform the public as to the reasons PATH is bad for Maryland. In addition to a picture showing a transmission tower soaring five times the height of a two story house; the sign lists four reasons the PATH project would be detrimental to the residents of Maryland. These reasons are:



No Actual Proven Need: Energy usage is down considerably due to the downturn in the economy and a reduction in demand. Sugarloaf Conservancy's position is supported by Governor O'Malley and nine other east coast governors who oppose the construction of transmission lines that would bring power from outside the region. The governors would prefer to create local renewable sources of power generation.

Hazardous Substation: PATH would require the construction of a huge substation in the center of a residential neighborhood located in Mount Airy, Maryland. An incident such as a fire, act of terrorism or a tornado could cause well water to be contaminated and thus, cause irreparable harm to residents.

Radiation Health Risks: High Voltage transmission lines emit harmful Electromagnetic Field (EMF) radiation. Studies have show that even weak EMFs which are found beyond the right-of-way have the ability to cause significant changes to living cells and thus increase the risks of Leukemia, Alzheimer's and other diseases.

Environmental Destruction: In addition to affecting the Sugarloaf Mountain view shed, the construction of the PATH transmission line would further fragment the forests, destroying wildlife habitat with its 200-foot right-of-way and subsequent erosion dumping sediment into Bennett Creek. The massive towers and lines would be seen just north of the billboard as the lines cross I270.

Sugarloaf Conservancy was formed to protect and enhance the quality of life in Frederick County by education on issues related to wetlands, streams, meadows, rivers, forests, view sheds, conservation, restoration, and preservation. Currently our focus is opposing the overhead PATH high voltage power lines. For more information, go to www.sugarloafconservancy.org or www.nometowers.org.