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The Honorable Kumar Barve
Maryland Public Service Commission
William Donald Schaefer Tower
6 St. Paul St., 16th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

March 11, 2026

Dear Chairman Barve and Commissioners,

I am writing in support of Pepco's White Flint Substation, which is a critical piece of North Bethesda's infrastructure and has been providing more than 40,000 homes and businesses with reliable power for the past 13 months. **Case No. 9820**

North Bethesda continues to experience significant growth. The region's booming life sciences sector helps anchor the broader innovation economy in Montgomery County, while new development projects and partnerships continue to expand economic opportunity. Recent examples include a \$58 million mixed-use development project above the North Bethesda WMATA station and the new HJF Biotech Innovation Lab in nearby Bethesda. These developments build upon Montgomery County's strong network of Business Innovation Centers in Rockville and Silver Spring, including a Rockville-based center focused on artificial intelligence.

This kind of economic growth is not possible without reliable energy infrastructure. The nearby Parklawn Substation was projected to reach critical capacity by 2027, creating uncertainty for new investment and threatening the long-term economic goals of the county. The development of the White Flint Substation has helped address this challenge by ensuring that the electric grid in the area can support continued growth and stability for years to come.

In my role with the **Greater Rockville Chamber of Commerce**, I work closely with businesses, entrepreneurs, and regional partners who depend on reliable infrastructure to invest, expand, and create jobs in Montgomery County. Access to dependable electric capacity is not simply a utility issue—it is an economic development necessity. Businesses considering locating or expanding in our region look for certainty that critical infrastructure can support their operations. The White Flint Substation provides that certainty and helps ensure that North Bethesda and Greater Rockville remain competitive destinations for investment and innovation.

The substation also strengthens grid reliability and resiliency for the surrounding community. Proactive investments in infrastructure like this help prevent future capacity constraints and reduce the risk of service disruptions as demand continues to grow. By addressing these needs now, Pepco is helping to avoid more costly emergency upgrades in the future, ultimately protecting ratepayers while supporting the long-term stability of the region's energy system.

Reliable power is foundational to a strong local economy. The White Flint Substation provides the capacity necessary for businesses to operate, for innovation to flourish, and for the North Bethesda community to continue growing.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marji Graf", written in a cursive style.

Marji Graf

Marji Graf, President & CEO

Greater Rockville Chamber of Commerce

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