

# DORCHESTER CITIZENS FOR SAFE ENERGY

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CITIZENS MEET TO ADDRESS POWER LINE CONCERNS**

Linkwood, MD - December 9, 2008 - On Tuesday night, 53 concerned citizens met at the Linkwood-Salem Fire Hall and formed a community action group, Dorchester Citizens for Safe Energy. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP) project. MAPP intends to run a 500 kv power line from the western shore and through Dorchester County to supply power to New Jersey. The power lines will cross the Chesapeake Bay and run through 27 miles of the County between Taylors Island and Vienna. The proposed path of the power line will cut through agricultural easements, wetlands, forests, and the land and farms of many Dorchester County residents, disturbing what many consider a natural heritage area. The proposed power line will be hundreds of feet wide and will create an electromagnetic field that may have adverse side effects on the health of our land, our people, and our wildlife. Other major concerns to Dorchester County residents are loss of property value, interference with farm operations, adverse environmental effects, loss of rural views, and other issues.

The goal of Dorchester Citizens for Safe Energy is to ensure that the power line is not built until citizen concerns have been fully resolved and all reasonable alternatives have been

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thoroughly evaluated. The meeting was chaired by Libby Nagel of Vienna, whose family owns several farms threatened by the project. Concerned citizens from all over the County showed up to voice their concerns about the project and agreed to work together to try to preserve our land.

To ensure that their goal is achieved, the attendees collectively pledged nearly \$10,000 to a quality of life preservation fund. The new organization then retained Community & Environmental Defense Services (ceds.org) to assist in achieving their goal. CEDS was instrumental in winning several recent battles in Dorchester County including preventing the Blackwater Resort near Cambridge and Horsey Mining south of Eldorado. CEDS has also helped citizens resolve concerns about energy projects elsewhere in the United States.

During the meeting CEDS president Richard Klein described how citizens have successfully dealt with concerns regarding other energy projects through negotiations with power companies and regulatory officials. Klein also offered examples of how citizens stopped poorly conceived projects, such as the Urbana Loop power line proposed for Frederick County. The Maryland Public Service Commission denied approval for this project in 2006 due, in large part, to unresolved citizen concerns.

For more information on Dorchester Citizens for Safe Energy or to find out how you can help, please contact Libby Nagel at 410-221-1325 or [lnagel1930@hughes.net](mailto:lnagel1930@hughes.net).

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