Senator Delores G. Kelley

Legislative District 10

Baltimore County

Chair Finance Committee

Executive Nominations Committee
Rules Committee
Legislative Policy Committee



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TESTIMONY OF SENATOR DELORES G. KELLEY

REGARDING SENATE BILL 676 - PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION - PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATION FUND - CAP

BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

ON FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Mr. Vice Chairman and Members:

Senate Bill 676 would increase the annual assessment which the Public Service Commission (PSC) could impose upon an electricity or gas supplier for services which the PSC is required to provide to electric or gas suppliers from 0.17% of the public service company's annual revenues earned in Maryland, to 0.25% of the public service company's annual revenues earned in Maryland.

Of 28 states whose public service commission's impose annual assessments on public service companies (i.e., gas and/or electric utilities) as a percentage of their intra-state gross revenues, Maryland's assessment is the seventh lowest, and has not been increased in more than 40 years.

Each of Maryland's gas and electric service companies depends upon the PSC to set utility rates, to collect and maintain records and reports, to review service plans, to inspect equipment, to audit financial records, to handle consumer complaints, and to adopt and enforce rules and regulations.

After more than 40 years without an assessment increase in Maryland, it is prudent to grant the requested increase from 0.17% to 0.25% of the instate revenues earned by Maryland's electric and gas service companies. I therefore urge your favorable report of Senate Bill 676.