



SUPPORT – House Bill 55
State Highway Administration Traffic Calming Device Study
House Environment and Transportation Committee

Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc., (Columbia Gas) is a natural gas utility providing energy to more than 34,000 customers in Maryland’s western counties of Allegany, Garrett and Washington, and we support House Bill 55.

The legislation expands the authorization to install and use speed monitoring and control systems on all Maryland residential roads with a maximum posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour which will improve safety in work zones and protect the individuals who work in them.

As outlined in the report of the Governor’s Work Zone Safety Work Group in 2024, Maryland has seen an increase in roadway fatalities – including in work zones.

Columbia Gas of Maryland and its sister companies in the states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana – all part of the NiSource corporation – have also seen significant increases in intrusions into our utility work zones over the last several years. Tragically, some work zone intrusions have led to injuries and deaths of employees and contractor colleagues.

The Columbia Gas companies in six states had 64 work zone incidents take place in 2024 and 56 work zone incidents take place in 2025. Specifically in Maryland, six work zone intrusions have taken place in our three counties alone within the last five years.

Of the 120 work zone incidents that took place over the last two years, approximately 74% were the result of negligence on the part of drivers. Columbia Gas believes we must do more to protect workers in work zones. It is our hope the expanded use of work zone speed control systems on residential roads in Maryland as a result of House Bill 55’s passage will result in increasing protections for Maryland workers in work zones in local communities.

Columbia Gas believes the requirements of House Bill 55 are appropriately and reasonably crafted policies related to protecting workers in work zones and requests a favorable report on the bill.

February 5, 2026

Contact:
Carville Collins
(410) 332-8627
carville.collins@saul.com

Contact:
Scott Waitlevertch
(724) 888-9774
swaitlevertch@nisource.com