



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

HB 260– Support

Residential Electricity and Gas Supply Billing Information – Reports

Economic Matters

2/05/2020

Good afternoon Chairman Davis, Vice Chair Dumais and Members of the Economic Matters Committee.

My Name is Rev. Linda Boyd and I am representing the Maryland Episcopal Diocese. The Diocese represents 108 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners stretching from Western Maryland to Calvert County. The Maryland Episcopal Diocese supports HB 260.

HB 260 requires electric companies, gas companies, and specified electricity and gas suppliers to submit monthly reports to the Public Service Commission (PSC) on the supply of electricity and gas to their residential customers.

It has come to our attention, that some churches and church members, are switching to third party energy suppliers and have ended up paying several times the amount for gas and electricity than they had before. Many of these churches and parishioners cannot afford to pay such an inflated rate for their gas and electricity. Gas and electricity are not optional; each one of us needs them for day-to-day survival. This is especially true here in Maryland where we have hot summers and frequently cold winters. We do not know the extent of this problem.

In all likelihood, other bodies of faith have been subjected to the same inflated rates.

We need reporting to uncover the extent of this problem.

We urge a favorable report.