

TED L. MEYERSON  
13412 GREEN HILL COURT  
HIGHLAND, MD 20777-9573  
tedmeyerson@verizon.net  
301-854-2971

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TO: Senate Finance Committee

RE: Support for SB618

Dear Committee Members:

As a member of AARP I get to talk with other members about their energy bills. It seems that many seniors consider the bills they get from utilities to be an enigma.

For my part, I gave up trying to decipher my electric bill. When it arrived, if the total looked about right, I accepted it as valid and wrote a check. That turned out to be a costly way of doing business.

Several years ago, Dominion Electric informed me that it had become legal for third parties to supply electricity. They said I could save money by switching from BG&E. OK, save money – sounds good. I switched.

Sometime later, Dominion left Maryland, and my account was inherited by NRG. The bills kept coming; they seemed to be reasonable, based on what previous bills had been.

A couple of months ago, I heard a presentation about third party billing at an AARP meeting. What a wake-up call! I realized I had been overpaying for electricity for years.

When I called NRG and said I wanted to leave because their cost was too high, they began to offer various billing options if I stayed with them. No thanks. I went back to BG&E.

“My bad” for not understanding that I was being charged \$60 or \$70 more each month than BG&E would have charged. If I didn’t understand it, maybe others are being overcharged, too.

We citizens look to government to protect us from things like this. SB618 makes it possible for that protection to happen. Accordingly, I am asking the Committee to give the bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Ted L. Meyerson