



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SB 681– Support

Electricity Suppliers and Gas Suppliers - Consumer Protections

Finance Committee

2/25/2020

Good afternoon Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman and Members of the Finance 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 SB 861.

Third party electrical and gas suppliers are targeting people on energy assistance and charging them a variable rate that is many times more than that charged by BG&E or Pepco. Because there is no reporting requirement by third party energy suppliers, the extent of this problem is not known. This bill provides ways in which the Office of People’s Counsel (OPC) must investigate this problem. The bill authorizes OPC to conduct investigations of electricity and gas suppliers. The bill also requires restitution for suppliers’ customers if PSC finds just cause and that the customers have experienced financial harm.

Suppliers are prohibited from switching a customer from a fixed rate to a variable rate without first obtaining the customer’s written consent, are prohibited from imposing an early termination or cancellation fee of more than \$50 and must include additional information on customer bills.

We ask for your support of bill SB0681, Energy Suppliers and Gas Suppliers—Consumer Protections.