



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SB 685– Support

Electricity and Gas - Energy Suppliers - Assisted Customers

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 865.

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 prohibits a retail electricity or gas supplier from knowingly enrolling a residential customer with, or submitting an enrollment to change a customer to, a competitive supplier if the customer has received specified utility bill assistance within the past 12 months.

Many of our parishioners are recipients of energy assistance and are being charged by third party energy suppliers a rate that is many more times than the rate charged by BG&E or Pepco. This bill would protect those parishioners from paying such a high rate.

We ask for your support of bill SB0685.

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