



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT

HB 397

Electricity and Gas - Energy Suppliers Supply Offers

Economic Matters Committee

2/04/2021

Good afternoon Chair 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 HB397.

This Bill requires any third--party energy supplier serving low-income families in Maryland on state energy assistance to charge the same, or lower, electric and natural gas rates as the regulated utility rates.

This is fiscally responsible legislation that:

1. Supports Retail Choice market.
2. Protects \$15 million in wasted state energy assistance funds.
3. Most importantly, guarantees the best retail utility pricing for our state's most financially vulnerable families.

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. 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 respectfully ask for your support of bill HB 397.



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