

To: Delegate Crosby

Re: Please Vote YES on HB 0267

Delegate Crosby:

I urge you to support HB 0267 Protect Energy Consumers, Electricity and Gas – Retail Supply – Regulation and Consumer Protection. And I appreciate that you are addressing this issue in the House on Thursday.

I am astonished (and appalled) at the way so many consumers are being taken advantage of by retail energy suppliers who lure people in with promises of “greener, lower rates, only to switch to significantly higher rates after an initial period. It is exploitation of the worst kind. I know because we have been a victim of these egregious practices. We recently discovered that for the last 2 and 1/2 years we paid over **\$10,000 extra** on our electricity bills because we switched from BG&E to CleanChoice. Little did we realize that:

- For many months, our account was charged between **\$0.35 to \$0.41 a kilowatt hour and BGE’s was about \$0.10 / kilowatt hour**
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- Given our home uses about 30,000 kilowatt hours a year, anyone can do simple math and realize each year we paid thousands of dollars more, for....
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- **RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATES!**
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- We weren’t even getting wind energy from a wind farm feeding energy into the grid!
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- **These Renewable Energy Certificates are beyond confusing, and we paid over \$10,000 for a fictional, green idea, from someone selling a credit from their wind farm. Another party bought the power. This system makes no sense and it discourages the public from adopting green practices. The system is broken and needs to be fixed**
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- **Given the rapid pace of climate change, as a society we can not afford to distrust the markets.**

Last, but **even worse**, typically, the predatory practices used by many of these unregulated suppliers prey upon socially and economically disadvantaged populations. Unlike many people who are living paycheck to paycheck, we were not bankrupted by these dubious companies. This unfortunate event did not cause us

to lose our home or default on other debts - we escaped the consequences that others can not afford!

HB 0267 will provide the desperately needed oversight to protect consumers when transitioning from a regulated to an unregulated energy market. This bill ensures that energy salespersons are licensed, establishes guidelines, and imposes fines for fraudulent practices—putting a check on deceptive tactics.

Your support for HB 0267 is crucial in safeguarding the interests of energy consumers. Thank you for sponsoring this legislation to help end unfair, misleading and predatory practices in the energy market.

We need to trust that we are buying what we think we are buying

Maryland must pass HB 0267.

Sincerely,

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