



Testimony on SB548
Ratepayer Protection Action
Position: **FAV**

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brige Dumais, and I am the Political Coordinator of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the nation, representing 10,000 members in Maryland alone. Our union urges a **favorable** report on SB548: The Ratepayer Protection Act.

Passing this bill will can help the state be a more effective regulator and watchdog, and will codify the recommendations from the Maryland Climate Commission and the Building Energy Transition Implementation Task Force.

Ensuring that dangerous pipes are fixed and that utility companies use modern leak detection technology is important to healthcare workers because these measures will improve public health. There is a dire short staffing crisis in healthcare across all sectors in Maryland. One of the ways to mitigate this crisis is to eliminate preventable illnesses – like the numerous illnesses caused by gas leaks and burning fossil fuels. Furthermore, fixing hazardous pipelines will reduce the risk of accidents like explosions which could require people to be hospitalized.

Please vote in favor of SB548. Thank you.

In Unity,

Brige Dumais, Political Coordinator
1199SEIU UHW E., MD/DC
brigitte.dumais@1199.org