



SENATE BILL 1 – ELECTRICITY AND GAS – RETAIL SUPPLY – REGULATION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

UNFAVORABLE

SENATE ENERGY, EDUCATION, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

January 25, 2024

Dietz and Watson submits these comments in **opposition** to **SB 1 – Electricity and Gas – Regulation and Consumer Protection**.

Dietz and Watson is a Meat Processing company. We have been shopping our energy (gas/electric) for more than 20 + years. We have been able to buy energy that is less than what the utility has offered, hence making us competitive in the industry. We employ approximately 600 people at our MD facility.

Dietz and Watson opposes SB1 because it would end our ability to procure our energy supply in a way that helps us maintain our competitiveness and meet our budgetary needs.

More specifically, the bill outlaws the very products and services that our company relies upon to power our business. It limits our ability to secure supply offers longer than 12 months. We are currently locked in until 2030 on electric due to RPS rules changing back in 2019 which we would have incurred substantial increases had we not. It restricts the way those products can be priced by artificially capping prices at the 12 month historical average SOS rate. It bans variable pricing and we are on that type of product now and have benefited greatly. It prevents us from entering into contracts that automatically renew. With our energy being one of our top 5 P&L items it has been valuable being able to shop our pricing. This has allowed us to find competitive pricing vs. being with the utility. We have been able to budget further out than the utility provides pricing.

In conclusion, SB1 would significantly harm our business and effectively end customer choice for Maryland customers like us, and for that reason [Company] urges the Committee to give SB 1 an **unfavorable** report.

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