



Date: January 24, 2024

To: Chair Brian J. Feldman and Vice Chair Cheryl C. Kagan

Reference: SB0001, Electricity and Gas – Retail Supply – Regulation and Consumer Protection

Position: Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members:

On behalf of LifeBridge Health, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 1 (SB1).

LifeBridge Health is a regional health system comprising Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, an independent academic medical center; Levindale Hebrew Geriatric Center and Hospital in Baltimore; Northwest Hospital, a community hospital in Baltimore County; Carroll Hospital, a sole community hospital in Carroll County; Grace Medical Center (formerly Bon Secours Hospital), a freestanding medical facility in West Baltimore; and Center for Hope a center of excellence focused on provided hope and services for trauma survivors in Baltimore City.

LifeBridge Health supports with amendments Senate Bill 1 (**SB1**) related to **Electricity and Gas – Retail Supply – Regulation and Consumer Protection**. LifeBridge Health aligns with the bill's overarching goal to safeguard the public from potential wrongdoing by energy suppliers.

In the context of Maryland's deregulated energy market, our organization has realized substantial benefits, successfully avoiding significant electricity and gas costs through strategic engagement in long-term contracts with multiple suppliers. This procurement approach allows us to plan, construct, and manage our financial expenditures reliably and responsibly, while also mitigating our exposure to price variability that could impact the financial stability of our organization.

While we appreciate the bill's objectives, we wish to bring attention to concerns regarding its potential impact on the renewable energy industry. LifeBridge Health strongly believes that the current formulation of the bill could adversely affect green energy projects, which often rely on long-term contracts for their development and operation. Such repercussions could impede the progress toward achieving our sustainability and carbon reduction goals.

LifeBridge Health respectfully advocates for specific amendments to SB1. Specifically, we propose the removal of the 12-month term limitation for electricity supply and the trailing 12-month average price restriction. These adjustments, we believe, will contribute to a more balanced and equitable regulatory framework.

In light of the aforementioned considerations, we kindly request a favorable committee report on SB1, with the proposed amendments duly considered. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure the bill aligns with the collective interests of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

For more information, please contact:

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