

SB1: Electricity and Gas – Retail Supply – Regulation and Consumer Protection
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment
January 24, 2024

Position: Favorable

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Clean Water Action supports SB1 to reform Maryland's retail energy system.

As an environmental group that operated a field canvass and invests heavily in community outreach, we have long heard the concerns and complaints of residents who thought they were making a wise financial decision changing their energy supplier. We are especially aware of eco-conscious energy buyers whose bills increased significantly after the low-cost entry period was over.

These are energy buyers who may be willing to pay a moderate premium to put their money where their mouth is on green energy goals, but we have heard too many stories from ratepayers who then felt cheated and taken advantage of. These experiences are chilling for the retail energy market and for renewable energy and make ratepayers more hesitant about green retail energy suppliers who do not pull similar shenanigans.

SB1 will give residents confidence and protection when engaging with the energy market.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

Thank you,

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