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COMMITTEE: HEALTH & GOVERNMENT

TESTIMONY ON: HB 993 COMMEMORATIVE WEEKS - MARYLAND CLIMATE EDUCATION WEEK

POSITION: SUPPORT

HEARING DATE: MARCH 14, 2024

Washington Gas respectfully submits this statement in **SUPPORT** of **House Bill 993 - Commemorative Weeks - Maryland Climate Education Week.**

Washington Gas Light provides safe, reliable natural gas service to more than 1.2 million customers in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Washington Gas has been providing energy to residential, commercial, government, and industrial customers for more than 175 years, and currently serves more than 500,000 Maryland customers in Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, St. Mary's, Frederick, and Calvert Counties. The Company employs over 400 people within Maryland, including contractors, plumbers, union workers, and other skilled tradespeople. We strive to improve the quality of life in our communities by maintaining a diverse workforce, working with suppliers that represent and reflect the communities we serve, and giving back through our charitable contributions and employee volunteer activities.

HB 993 would require the state's governor annually to proclaim the first week of April as Maryland Climate Education Week, as well as urge residents to participate in educational activities and initiatives that promote an awareness of climate change.

Climate education week is a great opportunity to incorporate climate education into school curriculum and highlight the importance of climate education. Climate change should be taught in an age-appropriate way at all grade levels throughout Maryland to ensure that students are prepared with the knowledge of climate science and be able to participate in a green economy. Climate education week will also improve the climate literacy of all Marylanders.

For the above reasons Washington Gas respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 993.

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