



## **In Support of HB419: The Ratepayer Protection Act**

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**Committee:** Economic Matters Committee

**Date:** February 6, 2025, 1:00 PM

## **In Support of HB419: The Ratepayer Protection Act**

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and all who are here, I thank you for lending your time and your ear.

I come as a voice for the people who pay,

For families who struggle with bills every day.

STRIDE was a promise—a plan to be fair,

To fix what was broken, to show that we care.

But dollars have poured like a river too wide,

And ratepayers drown in this high-cost tide.

Pipes meant for safety, yet leaks still grow,

The data is clear, the reports plainly show.

The price tag is soaring, the profits have too,

Heating a home should not be a dream,

Yet bills have now tripled—a silent scream.

A “fix it first” path is the way we should go,<sup>1</sup>  
Find where it’s leaking, stop the cash flow.  
No “gold-plated” systems, no needless expense,  
Just common-sense choices that truly make sense.  
Methane is poison, a climate attack,  
Trapping the heat and holding it back.  
Maryland’s laws call for cleaner ways,  
Yet STRIDE drags us back to the fossil-fueled haze.  
So I stand here today, urging you all,  
To answer the ratepayers' desperate call.  
Reform this law, stop the waste,  
Act with wisdom, act with haste.  
For budgets are tight, and people are cold,  
Let’s rewrite this story before it is told.  
With justice and care, let’s set it right,  
Pass this bill—bring warmth, bring light.  
I urge a favorable report on HB419.  
Thank you.