

03/11/2025

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0960- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Investor-Owned Electric, Gas, and Gas and Electric Companies - Cost Recovery - Limitations and Reporting Requirements (Ratepayer Freedom Act)

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0960, Investor-Owned Electric, Gas, and Gas and Electric Companies - Cost Recovery - Limitations and Reporting Requirements (Ratepayer Freedom Act)

This bill, the Ratepayer Freedom Act, prohibits investor-owned gas and electric companies from recovering costs associated with lobbying and political activities through rates. It also mandates that these companies report these costs to the Public Service Commission to ensure transparency and accountability.

It is unconscionable that monies raised from ratepayers are being used to finance actions that harm those ratepayers through increased costs for their energy needs. This bill will prevent misuse of ratepayer funds and add mandated monitoring of actions taken that have a deleterious effect on energy costs.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0960.