

Dear Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill SB0756 in the State of Maryland. This bill mandates that electric, gas, gas and electric, and water companies submit an audit of their operations, customer usage, and billing practices to the Public Service Commission every three years, starting December 31, 2026. Additionally, the bill requires the Commission to make these audits available to the public on its website.

I am particularly supportive of this bill because, over the past few months, my utility bill has quadrupled despite no change in my household's energy consumption. This situation is both unsustainable and unjust. We already have protections in place to limit rent increases to safeguard residents, and I believe what Pepco is doing mirrors this, but with energy costs. It is vital that this issue is addressed, and passing this bill would be an important first step.

As a concerned neighbor, I am especially worried about members of our community who are on fixed incomes or are seniors, as they are most vulnerable to these skyrocketing prices. We cannot afford this kind of increase, and we will not tolerate it. I respectfully urge you, if you have any compassion for your constituents, to help us work toward enacting laws that prevent this unfair practice. Below are some examples of the rising utility bills sent to me by nearby neighbors, which demonstrate clear price gouging:

1. January 2025: Pepco bill increased from \$401 to \$614 in February 2025.
2. January 2025: Bill increased from \$190 to \$500 in February 2025.
3. January 2025: Bill increased from \$400 to \$600 in February 2025.
4. January 2025: Bill increased from \$504 to \$827.47 in February 2025.
5. January 2025: Bill increased from \$500 to \$750 in February 2025.
6. January 2025: Bill increased from \$400 to \$600 in February 2025.

Some individuals, who were away overseas for two months, are experiencing these exorbitant price hikes without being present in their homes. This price gouging must stop.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I hope you will support us in taking steps toward a fair and just solution.

Sincerely,
Daniela Saunders