



## TESTIMONY OF JENNIFER LASZLO MIZRAHI

Maryland Climate Commissioner

EEE March 13, 1:00 PM

IN SUPPORT OF SB998 /HB419

**Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee - Bill Hearing  
3/13 at 1:00 PM - West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD**

### THE RATEPAYER PROTECTION ACT

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in strong support of the Ratepayer Protection Act. My name is **Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi**, and I serve as a **Maryland Climate Commissioner**. I am here on behalf of Maryland families, businesses, and communities struggling with rising energy costs, calling for responsible reform to protect our ratepayers and our climate future.

Maryland's **STRIDE program**, designed to update gas infrastructure, has instead fueled excessive spending and rising bills, leaving families to bear the costs while utilities reap the rewards. Without intervention, Maryland ratepayers could face a **\$40 billion burden** over the next two decades, all while our state must transition to cleaner, more affordable energy.

I could lay out more facts and figures—but today, I want to make the case in a different way.

---

#### A Ratepayer's Plea

A promise made, yet profits soared,  
The cost passed down, the pain ignored.  
We toil, we budget, we stretch each dime,  
Yet bills climb higher, time after time.

A pipe replaced—a needed task,  
Yet hidden fees still swell the ask.  
For every dollar that they spend,  
Four more are charged—it does not end.

They tell us, “This is for your good,”  
Yet struggle grips the neighborhood.  
Our elders shiver, homes go cold,  
As stockholders see profits fold.

Maryland stands at a crucial gate,  
To fix what's wrong, before too late.  
Let fairness guide the path ahead,  
Or leave more families deep in dread.

The time is now, we must be wise,  
To stop the burden, halt the rise.  
Pass this bill—restore what's fair,  
So all can breathe unburdened air.

---

I urge this committee to pass the **Ratepayer Protection Act**. This bill will ensure **utility accountability**, prioritize **affordability**, and align Maryland's policies with our **clean energy future**.

Let's stand together **for Maryland ratepayers**—for fairness, for responsibility, and for the future we all deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.