



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in OPPOSITION of HB 1532 Utility RELIEF Act

TO: Chair Feldman and Members of the Energy, Education and Environment
Committee
FROM: Phil Webster, PhD, Lead Advocate for the Climate
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.
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The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) strongly opposes **HB 1532-Utility RELIEF (Reducing Energy Load Inflation for Everyday Families) Act**. We are a faith-based advocacy organization based on Unitarian Universalist (UU) Values, including Interdependence (honoring the interdependent web of all existence) and Justice (where all feel welcome and can thrive). Working to mitigate, adapt to, and build resilience for climate change is central to our beliefs. The **Utility RELIEF Act** is *out of alignment* with both of these values.

This bill would make numerous small reductions in near term utility costs (e.g. reducing support for EmPower) which will result in growth of highly polluting fossil fuel and/or nuclear energy deployment. Each of these sources have a higher Levelized Cost of Electricity (LCOE) than solar, wind and batteries, with nuclear almost three times greater.

Compounding this will be an increase in climate change and the inherent cost to Marylanders. Last year, Governor Moore stated that cost to Marylanders was \$10B per year, and this is based on *meeting* the goals of **Climate Solutions Now Act** of 2022.

We support saving ratepayers money, but we should not do so in short-sighted ways that will cost more in the long run, push us further behind in meeting our climate goals, and ultimately make electricity more expensive.

We urge a UNFAVORABLE report on **SB 1532**.

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