



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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Bill Title: [SB0002](#) Investor-Owned Electric, Gas, and Gas and Electric Companies - Cost Recovery - Limitations

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

From: Iman Habib, Climate Policy Analyst on behalf of Progressive Maryland

Date: February 2, 2026

Good afternoon Chair Feldman and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

My name is Iman Habib and I am the Climate Policy Analyst for Progressive Maryland which is a multi-racial, power-building organization that advocates for working class people who are faced with a variety of injustices, one being energy affordability. We have over 125,000 members and supporters across the state, with significant bases in Baltimore City, Prince George's, Montgomery, Frederick, Harford counties, and the Eastern Shore. Since this past summer, we've knocked on over 10,000 doors listening to the concerns of everyday Marylanders and one of the most common issues they struggle with is skyrocketing utility bills. For this reason, **Progressive Maryland is in strong support of SB2 - Investor-Owned Electric, Gas, and Gas and Electric Companies - Cost Recovery - Limitations.**

Take for instance the story of Alice Lucas, Progressive Maryland member from Temple Hills, Prince Georges County. Ms. Lucas reports that her utility bills sharply increased three to four years ago after a change in property management and have remained consistently high, sometimes reaching \$280-\$300 per month, creating ongoing financial strain on her fixed income and forcing difficult choices between basic needs like heat and medication. These rising costs, combined with deteriorating living conditions and slow or inconsistent responses to maintenance requests, have made it increasingly hard for her to afford monthly bills and necessities, leaving her to seek additional assistance as these challenges threaten her housing stability and overall well-being in the community she has called home for over a decade.

This is only one of the many stories of Marylanders facing housing and financial instability due in part to the high costs of utilities. Instead of allowing the utility companies to use our money irresponsibly, the state should work on lowering utility costs by centering Marylanders not industry—and this means ratepayer money should not be funding corporate excess.

Progressive Maryland is respectfully urging a favorable report on SB2 because ratepayer dollars should not be lining the pockets of corporate executives. When working class Marylanders regularly make the choice between paying for basic needs like medicine and heat, the last thing they want is for their already strained income to fund the wealthy corporate class.

Thank you for your consideration and time.