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**SB 598 – Securing Affordable, Valuable Investments in Next-Generation Grid Solutions
(SAVINGS Act)
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
February 26, 2026
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee. My name is Laurel Peltier, and I am a proud member of AARP Maryland and a resident of Baltimore County. AARP Maryland represents more than 850,000 members across the state, making it one of the largest membership-based organizations advocating on behalf of older Marylanders. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB598. We thank Senator Hester for introducing this legislation on behalf of Maryland ratepayers.

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering people to live their best lives as they age. Our work focuses on issues that matter most to older adults and their families, including affordable utilities, financial security, health care access, and protection from financial exploitation.

AARP Maryland supports Senate Bill 598 because it offers a plan to put downward pricing pressure on future transmission capital costs and spending. By requiring the PSC's approval for an integrated advanced energy technologies cost containment plan, future peak demand events may be curtailed. Given the large and new data center PJM energy demands, we know that an all-hands-on-deck approach must be taken to utilize the current grid and access less costly technologies that maximize current and future transmission infrastructure.

AARP Maryland knows that our members and many senior Marylanders on fixed incomes are grappling with today's unaffordable utility bills. Tough budget decisions are being made to pay for utilities, and the negative consequences are many. From health and safety issues to increased terminations, the main benefit of SB 598 is to tamp down future electricity supply rates.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to support SB 598.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick, AARP Maryland Advocacy Director at swestrick@aarp.org or by calling 410-310-0374.

