



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Senate Bill 834

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs, Services, and Plans – Moratorium

Date: March 5, 2026

To: Education, Energy, & Environment Committee

Position: UNFAVORABLE

From: Gussie Maguire,
MD Staff Scientist

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES Senate Bill 834** which prohibits the state from enforcing requirements for energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions reduction. The bill also allows electric and gas companies to continue to recover, via ratepayers, costs associated with these programs.

This bill both hamstring the state's ability to meet its climate goals, which are protective of residents across the state impacted by both climate change impacts like flooding and extreme heat and air pollution from burning fossil fuels, and punishes already-struggling ratepayers by allowing highly profitable electric and gas companies to continue to collect costs associated with those climate goals.

The growing profit margins achieved by Baltimore Gas & Electric and other utility companies serving the state have been well-reported. For example, BGE reported a \$50 million increase in its profits from 2024 to 2025, for a total of \$578 million.¹ In light of this, we question the necessity of cost recovery while utility companies continue to turn record profits. Now is not the time for Maryland to turn its back on our commitments to limit greenhouse gas emissions, and now is not the time to saddle utility ratepayers with new costs to bolster corporate profits.

CBF urges the Committee's UNFAVORABLE report on SB 834.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.