



TESTIMONY FOR SB0002

Investor-Owned Electric, Gas, and Gas and Electric Companies – Cost Recovery - Limitations

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hester

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0002 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members are tired of having their money squandered by big companies who pay their executives lavish bonuses and outlandish executive pay. None is more enraging that utility companies, who have caused innumerable and existential environmental problems with their greed.

This bill would require that utility companies do not push certain costs through to their rate payers –

- the cost of bonuses unless those bonuses were already in an employment agreement dated before December 31, 2025 or are part of a collective bargaining agreement
- executive compensation greater than 110% of the salary of a member of the Public Service Commission for that year

Additionally, it would require utility companies to reign in the costs of –

- entertainment and events
- office and facility renovations
- transportation services, including aviation
- staff development activities or events
- performance incentives
- other activities outside of the scope of the normal course of business operations

Many of the utilities rate payers are low- to moderate- income Marylanders and they should not be paying exorbitant rates for utilities so that the executives and others in the utility companies can become rich off of them.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.