



**Testimony for:** SB0749 – Residential Retail Customer and Retail Electricity Suppliers  
- Definition and Alterations  
**Committee:** Education, Energy and the Environment  
**Organization:** Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing  
**Person Submitting:** Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair  
**Hearing Date:** February 26, 2026  
**Position:** UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today on SB0749. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice, urges you to vote UNFAVORABLE on SB0749.

We were strong supporters of SB001 – Electricity and Gas - Retail Supply - Regulation and Consumer Protection, which passed in 2024 and reformed the Maryland residential retail energy market. This landmark consumer protection law has saved residential customers an estimated \$220 million since it was passed. These savings were greatest for retail customers with variable rate accounts who paid about 40% higher electricity rates than statewide utility default service and about 50,000 gas accounts that paid 68% more for gas.

SB0749 includes four modifications to SB001, one of which we support; however, we have concerns with the other three changes. In summary, SB0749 would:

1. eliminate average trailing 12-month rate limit;
2. require utility consolidated billing for retail suppliers (presumably without purchase of receivables payment systems);
3. expand the renewable energy certificates (RECs) geographical generation region to include any state in the US; and
4. allow commercial retail suppliers to enroll residential accounts that appear to conduct some business activity at the address (even when the utility has coded the account in question as a residential account).

We support the first change to strike the 12-month trailing average language, because it is hard to compete with the trailing average when utility rates have increased in an unprecedented manner, as they have recently given the PJM supply issues. Retail supply offers, other than green power offers, would be required to be at or below utility standard offer service (SOS) rates.

We do not support the second change, because of the cost of new billing systems. Ratepayers have already had to bear the cost of past billing systems. In 2009, utility consolidated billing (UCB) with purchase of receivables (POR) likely cost ratepayers millions of dollars and as did the supplier consolidated billing (SCB) system approved by the PSC in 2019, which cost over \$10 million. Retail suppliers have yet to use the SCB system. Creating yet another UCB billing system (presumably without POR) for retail suppliers is not a cost ratepayers should have to pay.

We don't support the third change, because we do not want Maryland ratepayers to unwittingly pay more for supposed green energy that is actually comprised of cheap wind RECs from Texas and Kansas or worse. Furthermore, the 49% that the PSC considers for a green energy rate cap still requires retail suppliers to purchase voluntary unbundled RECs for all RECs purchased to be retired within the PJM-GATS REC system. Maryland should enact policies that incentivize new, renewable generation as close to home as possible. We do not want to charge well-meaning green power consumers for old wind RECs in states far from Maryland.

We do not support the fourth change that would allow commercial retail suppliers to enroll residential accounts that appear to conduct some business activity at the address. The PSC Order in December 2024 makes it clear that SB1 applies to all residential accounts. There may be a blind spot in utility coding, where some buildings, or accounts, are both residential users and business users (e.g., hairdressers, day care facilities, churches run from a residence). The language in SB0749 would allow a commercial retail energy supplier to make an offer to a residential account because someone indicated that a utility residential account is really a small business account. A better solution is for these accounts to be reclassified to better reflect the building use (and related energy use), if the account holder wants to take advantage of commercial retail rates.

We urge an UNFAVORABLE report for SB0749 unless the bill is limited to only the 12-month trailing average changes.

350MoCo

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Climate Law and Policy Project

Climate Parents of Prince George's

Climate Reality Project

ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition

Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

Echotopia

Elders Climate Action Maryland

Fix Maryland Rail

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

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Montgomery Countryside Alliance

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