



SB598

Electric Companies – Cost Containment Plans – Requirement (Securing Affordable, Valuable Investments in Next Generation Grid Solutions (SAVINGS) Act)

**Testimony before Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 5, 2026**

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee, my name is Crystal Konny, and I represent the 1700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of SB598**. This bill requires electric companies to submit cost containment plans for electric distribution and transmission system planning to the Public Service Commission (PSC), to plan for reducing peak electric system loads, and to submit progress reports on the implementation of the plans. We thank Senator Hester for introducing this bill.

The bill, in general, attempts to make electric companies responsible for planning to contain electric costs. I live in the BGE service area. As everyone in this area is fully aware, costs have really skyrocketed much faster than even the general inflation rate. We need legislation to bring costs down because BGE currently has no incentive to be efficient and effective with their project selection and management.

The bill will reduce utility spending on grid infrastructure and encourage advanced energy solutions to reduce the costs of future grid infrastructure improvements. Electric companies will have to create a cost benefit analysis and get it reviewed and approved by PSC. That means someone will finally be looking out for Marylanders and putting a stop to wasteful utility company spending that is then passed on to consumers.

And the bill will reduce the chance of blackouts and brownouts, a relief to all, especially those that rely on electricity for health reasons.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to pass SB598. Marylanders need relief from the high cost increases utility companies are charging.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

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