



# PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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**Bill Title:** [SB0002](#) Investor-Owned Electric, Gas, and Gas and Electric Companies - Cost Recovery - Limitations

**Position:** SUPPORT (FAV)

**To:** Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**From:** Alex Hirtle

**Date:** February 3, 2026

Greetings Chair Feldman and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

My name is Alex Hirtle. **I urge a favorable report on [SB0002](#) Investor-Owned Electric, Gas, and Gas and Electric Companies - Cost Recovery - Limitations.**

**My family has been affected by higher utility rates- we are paying more than ever for natural gas and electricity, and should not be subsidizing perks for utility executives.**

Gas and electric utility companies are currently authorized to charge ratepayers for trade association services, executive bonuses, and private jets. At a time when energy costs are skyrocketing for Marylanders like me, it is outrageous that we are allowing these wealthy companies to gouge us for their perks.

This legislation will set restrictions on executive pay costs that utility companies are able to pass onto ratepayers. In a time when energy affordability is already a massive issue and Marylanders, especially those who are underserved, are struggling to make ends meet, the average Marylander should not be responsible for financing utility company executives. We must work toward ensuring that gas and electric companies discontinue profiting from their customers for non-provider-related services.

[SB0002](#) will pave the way for holding utility companies accountable for charging their customers exorbitantly high electricity rates in a time when energy prices are already unaffordable. **For these reasons, I urge a favorable report.**

Sincerely,

*Alex Hirtle*