



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: Christianne Marguerite, Director of Communications, Progressive Maryland

Date: 02/02/2026

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

I am Christianne Marguerite, Director of Communications for Progressive Maryland, a multi-racial, working class, power-building organization which upholds environmental justice by promoting policies that will pave the way for energy affordability. Our membership spans across the state of Maryland and one common sentiment among our members is that energy bills are too high and that the utility tycoons are the main culprit.

Gas and electric utility companies are currently authorized to transfer the cost of 1) maintaining strong financial ties with trade associations, 2) awarding high bonuses above a certain threshold to their executives, 3) funding private jets, and 4) paying for other miscellaneous costs not directly related to provider service, onto their ratepayers. When utility companies approach the Public Service Commission (PSC) to review their rate case, or proposal for how much companies can charge customers, they often include whether these executive compensation costs should be covered by customers. This means that the PSC has purview over and authority to reject such requests if they do not serve the public.

This legislation will do exactly that by setting 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 everyday Marylander should not be responsible for financing utility company executives. We must work to ensure that gas and electric companies discontinue profiting off of 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 the reasons above, Progressive Maryland urges a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration and time.