



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

P.O. Box 7595, Largo MD 20792

ProgressiveMaryland.org

Info@progressivemaryland.org

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: Eric Fowler

Date: February 3, 2026

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

My name is Eric Fowler, and I am a member of Progressive Maryland. Progressive Maryland is a multi-racial, working-class, power-building organization that advances environmental justice by promoting policies that deliver energy affordability. **I urge a favorable report on [SB0002](#) Investor-Owned Electric, Gas, and Gas and Electric Companies - Cost Recovery - Limitations.**

I have experienced utility expenses as a tenant for many years and now as a first time home owner. In the last decade plus I have seen utility costs rise through the roof and witnessed friends and family downsize solely due to the cost of electricity and gas. We have all made sacrifices to afford the seemingly ever increasing utility bills, and it pains me to see so many making hard choices to keep crumbs on the table while highly paid executives take home bigger and bigger slices of the pie.

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,
Eric Fowler