



February 4, 2026

**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
HB 79 – Climate Solutions Affordability Act of 2026**

Statement of Support

Chesapeake Utilities of Maryland, Inc. (“Chesapeake”) provides natural gas local distribution service to approximately 33,000 customers across Maryland's Eastern Shore (including Cecil, Dorchester, Caroline, Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset counties). Chesapeake **SUPPORTS** HB 79, which clarifies implementation of the Climate Solutions Now Act by ensuring that climate mandates across multiple sectors, buildings, transportation, procurement, and public infrastructure, are carried out to the extent economically practicable. The bill maintains Maryland’s climate ambitions while providing flexibility to reduce cost burdens on local governments, businesses, and ratepayers.

HB 79 recognizes the diverse pathways available for emissions reduction. This bill supports the use of scientifically proven technologies, encourages continued operation of zero-carbon electric generation, and maintains flexibility for infrastructure projects and school bus electrification timelines when affordability or technological limitations arise. This balanced approach aligns with our industry’s efforts to modernize infrastructure, reduce methane emissions, and expand renewable natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen blending capabilities in the years ahead.

HB 79 emphasizes accurate emissions reporting and transparent tracking, enabling robust statewide planning. Utilities can help by sharing operational data and collaborating on practical emissions-reduction strategies.

Ultimately, **HB 79** strengthens Maryland’s climate strategy by pairing ambition with affordability, a combination essential to long-term success. As the state continues its transition toward a lower-carbon energy future, natural gas utilities like Chesapeake will remain key partners in ensuring reliability, supporting innovation, and delivering equitable outcomes for Maryland families and businesses.

On behalf of Chesapeake and our thousands of employees and their families who contribute every day in the communities where they live, work, and serve, we respectfully support HB 79

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation
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