



**HOUSE BILL 974 – ELECTRIC AND GAS RETAIL SUPPLY
(FREEDOM FROM MONOPOLIES ACT)**

FAVORABLE

**HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION
March 6, 2026**

NRG Energy, Inc. (“NRG”) submits these comments in **support** of **HB 974 – Electric and Gas Retail Supply (Freedom from Monopolies Act)**.

NRG is a leading provider of electricity, natural gas, and smart home solutions to eight million customers across North America. The company operates a customer-first platform supported by a diversified supply strategy and the safe, reliable operation of approximately 25 GW of power generation, including. NRG recently added CPower, a leading C&I demand response company that provides services across the country, including in Maryland where it is headquartered, to the NRG family of companies. NRG plays a meaningful role in competitive energy markets and our innovative team is creating the flexible and affordable solutions that households and large businesses need today and in the future. Those solutions include Virtual Power Plant offerings that help homes and businesses reduce their total energy usage and spend. In Maryland, NRG provides services to non-residential electricity and natural gas customers.

SB 1 eliminated retail energy choice for Maryland residential and some small non-residential customers. Residential shopping stood at 400,000 at the end of 2024 prior to the passage of SB 1. Today, zero residential customers are taking energy supply service from a competitive energy supplier. Retail energy businesses have left the state and residential customers have no retail supply options to protect themselves against ever increasing energy prices.

HB 974 would repeal SB 1. While there is no guarantee that robust retail choice would return, or return quickly, the market structure would at least enable choice to once again take root. For that reason, NRG urges the Committee to give HB 974 a **favorable** report.

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