



## House Bill 1253

**Position: Unfavorable**

Committee: Environment & Transportation

Date: March 10, 2026

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Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

House Bill 1253 (HB 1253) would repeal key provisions that currently allow natural gas utilities to develop long-term infrastructure replacement plans and recover associated costs through the regulatory framework established under the STRIDE program. This program has played an important role in enabling utilities to systematically replace aging gas infrastructure while maintaining safety and reliability for Maryland customers.

Eliminating this framework may slow the replacement of aging infrastructure, potentially increasing safety risks and long-term costs for customers. The current approach provides regulatory oversight while allowing utilities to plan multi-year investments that modernize pipelines, improve system reliability, and reduce methane leaks.

Maryland businesses depend on safe, reliable, and affordable energy to operate. Undermining the state's existing infrastructure investment framework could disrupt ongoing projects and ultimately increase costs for employers and consumers alike.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **unfavorable report on HB 1253**.