

TESTIMONY OF
LAUREN GYGAX
MARYLAND PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

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TESTIMONY OF
BRITTANY BAKER
MARYLAND DIRECTOR

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MIKE TIDWELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**HB0958- NATURAL GAS- CONNECTION AND LINE EXTENSION- DISCOUNTS AND
PAYMENT PLANS
UNFAVORABLE**

Environment and Transportation
February 27th, 2026

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The Public Service Commission's first order in the Future of Gas Docket is a common sense approach to a reality that is true in Maryland and in many other states around the nation- utilization of the gas distribution system has been decreasing across all sectors: residential, commercial, and industrial.¹

The purpose of this order is to ensure that as customers leave the gas system, customers who are not able to or do not desire to leave are not stuck paying for escalated costs due to accelerated spending by gas companies. This change will save ratepayers an estimated \$150 million annually and \$1 billion through 2035.²

Order No. 91683 ends free extensions of the gas line to new customers, ensures utilities can no longer recover the line extension costs through rate increases, applies to residential and commercial customers, and applies across all gas utilities.

This is a timely update that will ensure lower rates for all of Maryland's gas utility customers.

This bill aims to prohibit the PSC's ability to finalize these regulations. Therefore, **I request an unfavorable report of HB0958.**

¹https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_cons_sum_dcu_SMD_a.htm

²https://opc.maryland.gov/Portals/0/Files/Publications/Final_MD%20Line%20Extension%20Policy%20Changes_25%20PM_7.1.2025.pdf?ver=kBgOCB9k00NM3-Elu1sUtA%3d%3d



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