



**TESTIMONY OF
BRITTANY BAKER
MARYLAND DIRECTOR**

—
**JAMIE DEMARCO
LOBBYIST**

—
**MIKE TIDWELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

HB540- PSC TRANSPARENCY ACT
FAVORABLE
ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 10TH, 2026

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

Electric bills have been rising at an unsustainable rate, particularly within the Exelon owned utility territories. By increasing electric rates slightly nearly every year, utilities have been able to slowly but consistently raise the cost of energy. Ratepayers in Maryland have been boiled slowly, like a frog in water, to the point that many people are being forced to choose between putting food on the table and heating their home.

Ideally utilities are able to continue operating without requesting a rate hike, but some utilities have made requesting a rate hike a near annual occurrence. Requiring utilities to share graphics depicting the change in rates over time and information about how a ratepayer can make their voice heard at the PSC would serve as a deterrent for utilities to increase rates so frequently. If a utility chooses not to request a rate hike because they don't want to send a mailer to every ratepayer showing how much energy costs have increased in the past 10 years, then this legislation will have successfully kept energy prices lower for your constituents.

A mailer alone will not solve Maryland energy prices, but it is a concrete step towards increasing much needed education on energy issues and increasing transparency around utility rates.

I urge a favorable report on HB540.