



# Paramount Energy Services, LLC

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## HOUSE BILL 974 –ELECTRICITY AND GAS - RETAIL SUPPLY (FREEDOM FROM MONOPOLIES ACT)

### FAVORABLE with AMENDMENTS

### ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE March 6, 2026

Paramount Energy Services, LLC submits these **favorable with amendments** comments to **HB 974 Electricity And Gas - Retail Supply (Freedom From Monopolies Act)**

Paramount Energy Services, LLC is a boutique Energy Advisory and Asset Management Firm based in Maryland. Founded in 2015 by Amy York, AEE® (Association of Energy Engineers) Certified Energy Procurement Professional, Paramount Energy Services is certified by the State of Maryland as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) firm. We specialize in the PJM wholesale electric energy markets, the natural gas markets and in direct market participation on both load as well as the generation sides of the market. Our depth of expertise and the team's proficiency across many energy commodities and markets allow us to guide government, private sector, and industrial clients with efficient and effective approaches in fulfilling their desired energy goals which includes the matching of specific generation assets and their environmental attributes to a particular client's load to create low or zero-carbon supply.

We submitted comments, along with several of our clients, in opposition to the 2024 SB1 legislation given that the ability to educate commercial and industrial clients (C&I) about open commodity markets and mitigating their risk with a defined strategic approach is the heart of our business. As a result, C&I clients were carved out of the 2024 legislation. However, **residential consumers have lost all choices for 3<sup>rd</sup> party suppliers**. Personally, it costs me roughly \$1,200/year more for my electricity costs since this 2024 legislation went into effect. This is probably an average cost increase that residential clients are paying and the only option we have is to take service under the Provider of Last Resort (PoLR) rates from the utilities. With more than 2 million residential customers in Maryland, that generates additional income of \$2.4 billion for the utilities in this state.

We would suggest this Bill be amended to include Purchase of Receivables (POR). POR was originally established to provide equal opportunity for all customers to choose a supplier regardless of income. Now, only the PoLR provider can recover credit losses, while a 3<sup>rd</sup> party supplier cannot. This is anticompetitive and gives the monopoly PoLR provider an advantage over a 3<sup>rd</sup> party supplier.



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We advocate that rules trying to interfere with the way the free markets are working to manage commodities and commodity contracts should be terminated. As proposed in this Bill, the legislation should create some educational opportunities for customers looking to shop for electric or natural gas supply. We would not be opposed to regulations that hold both unscrupulous salespersons and the companies that employ them directly accountable.

In conclusion, HB974 would allow competitive energy markets to work as they should and not be limited by guidelines that have no place in these markets. Paramount Energy Services urges the Committee to **approve HB974 with** consideration for **amendments** based on the reasons stated herein.

*Amy York*

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