



Position Statement

OPPOSE
Environment and Transportation
2/24/2026

House Bill 950 -- Street Lighting Equipment-Acquisition and Reporting

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) opposes *House Bill 950 – Street Lighting Equipment-Acquisition and Reporting*, which would authorize counties and municipalities to purchase utility-owned streetlights. Upon purchasing the streetlights and any associated equipment, a local government would be authorized to install alternate energy street lighting technologies. Utilities would be required to offer alternate energy tariffs to provide electrical service to the county and municipality-owned streetlights.

While BGE is opposed to *House Bill 950*, we are **not opposed** to the sale of streetlighting equipment to municipalities. Maryland Code, Local Government §1-1309 already provides counties and municipalities the right to purchase streetlighting equipment from the utility at **fair market value**, and BGE fully recognizes and complies with that authority. Our primary concern with *House Bill 950* relates to the proposed statutory definition of *Net Book Value (NBV)*. The definition outlined in the bill is overly prescriptive, inconsistent with industry practice, and does not align with the flexible, generalized approach typically used across the region. Any statutory definition of NBV should remain adaptable to account for system differences, asset age, and utility cost structures rather than imposing a rigid formula that conflicts with established norms.

Many of the objectives reflected in *House Bill 950* are already addressed through BGE's existing streetlight tariff. The tariff provides counties and municipalities with the ability to own and maintain unmetered streetlighting, select their preferred electric supplier, and choose from a range of energy efficient fixture options. BGE has made significant investments to modernize streetlighting infrastructure, including the deployment of **265,000 smart lighting controls** across BGE owned and customer owned fixtures through 2026. These controls support outage detection, enhanced maintenance efficiency, and ongoing development of dimming capabilities. In addition to customer-owned options under the tariff, ownership Type 4 allows customer ownership and maintenance with a defined point of disconnect from the distribution system. Customers may also choose to install a metered circuit at their own expense and manage any lighting beyond the meter.

BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland's largest gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.3 million electric customers and more than 700,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company's approximately 3,400 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's largest energy delivery company.

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It is also important to recognize that BGE's streetlighting assets are **unmetered** and usage is determined by billable watts based on manufacturer specifications in accordance with Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA LM-79) Test Reports. Introducing requirements that depend on municipalities' own usage-tracking mechanisms would not be feasible for unmetered assets. Because these lights are energized directly from the distribution system, only BGE or BGE-authorized contractors may perform work on them to ensure safety and system integrity.

House Bill 950 does not adequately address the broader costs and operational implications associated with transferring ownership of utility-owned streetlighting. In many cases, streetlights are attached to poles fully or jointly owned by utilities such as BGE and Verizon. When counties or municipalities purchase only the lighting equipment, they may still be responsible for pole rental costs and other attachment-related fees. Although the bill states that jointly owned poles are not included in the definition of streetlighting equipment, any fixtures attached to such poles would require the local jurisdiction to coordinate directly with the telecommunications company and assume responsibility for any associated arrangements or payments.

For these reasons, BGE respectfully and firmly urges an **unfavorable Committee report** on *House Bill 950*.

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