

February 27, 2026

House Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: House Bill 958 Natural Gas – Connection and Line Extension – Discounts and Payment Plans**

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Prince George's Chamber of Commerce submits this testimony in support of House Bill 958. Our Chamber represents a diverse coalition of local employers, entrepreneurs, developers, and community leaders committed to advancing economic opportunity and sustainable growth throughout Prince George's County.

Predictable infrastructure policy is essential to supporting continued investment in our region. Businesses considering expansion or relocation must be able to plan with confidence, particularly when it comes to energy infrastructure and development costs. Recent proposals affecting natural gas line extension practices have raised concerns among our members about increased upfront costs and potential barriers to new projects, including housing and commercial development that support local job creation.

HB 958 provides an important measure of clarity and stability by reinforcing that significant infrastructure policy decisions should be considered through the legislative process. Maintaining a consistent framework helps ensure that businesses can continue to invest in Prince George's County while supporting energy affordability, reliability, and consumer choice.

Many of our members operate on tight margins and depend on predictable cost structures to remain competitive. Policies that create barriers to entry slow development, investment, and create affordability issues across industries. HB 958 helps provide the stability needed to foster continued economic growth across our communities.

The Prince George's Chamber of Commerce has previously raised concerns about regulatory proposals that could increase development costs and limit options for businesses and residents. We believe HB 958 offers a balanced approach that supports economic development while allowing policymakers to thoughtfully evaluate future energy policy.

For these reasons, the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges a **FAVORABLE report** on House Bill 958.

Sincerely,

*Alexander K. Austin*

Alexander Austin  
President & CEO  
Prince George's Chamber of Commerce