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**HB 1 Investor-Owned Electric, Gas, and Gas and Electric Companies - Cost Recovery –
Limitations
Environment and Transportation Committee
January 27, 2026**

FAVORABLE

Good afternoon, Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee. My name is Laurel Peltier, and I am a proud member of AARP Maryland and a resident of Baltimore County. AARP Maryland represents more than 850,000 members across the state, making it one of the largest membership-based organizations advocating for older Marylanders. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1. We thank Delegate Crosby for introducing this important legislation on behalf of Maryland ratepayers.

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering people to live their best lives as they age. Our work focuses on issues that matter most to older adults and their families, including affordable utilities, financial security, health care access, and protection from financial exploitation.

Older Marylanders, like all utility customers, deserve fair and just rates, free from hidden or unnecessary expenses. HB 1 ensures that ratepayer dollars are used responsibly and not to fund excessive expenditures for entertainment and events, office and facility renovations, transportation services, including aviation, staff development, performance incentives, and other activities outside the scope of normal business activities.

These are unusual times for Maryland's older adults, as many find the current electricity and gas rates truly unaffordable. The health and safety of older residents have been negatively affected as they scramble to pay for utilities to avoid terminations and keep the power on. AARP Maryland thinks it's reasonable to require the utilities' Board of Directors to adopt company-wide policies that judiciously spend rate payers' funds on the above business activities.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to support HB 1.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick, AARP Maryland Advocacy Director at swestrick@aarp.org or by calling 410-310-0374.

