

TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 0974
TITLE: ELECTRICITY AND GAS-RETAIL SUPPLY (FREEDOM FROM MONOPOLIES ACT)
BY
MR. GEORGE W. LYNN
FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

Mr Chairman, Members of the Energy and Transportation Committee. My name is George Lynn, a resident of Maryland for 50 years, and a resident of Anne Arundel County, District 31.

Thank you for allowing me to testify before this committee. It is truly an honor. It is the pinnacle of democratic government to allow ordinary citizens to engage in the political process by testifying before a legislative committee. It is an honor I do not take lightly. I want to personally thank my Delegate, Brian Chisholm, for making this opportunity available.

I am proud and thankful that all of the delegates of District 31 have sponsored this important legislation.

I have come to testify in support of House Bill 974 to correct a grave mistake made by the legislature several years ago, when Senate Bill 1 was enacted, removing Energy Choice from the citizens of Maryland.

I have participated in Energy Choice almost as long as it has been available. It has enabled me to save as much as 7 cents per KWH on my BG&E Electric Bill. If we assume an average consumption of 2500 KWH per month, this equates to a base savings of about \$175 per month, exclusive of taxes and fees which are also based on consumption. As electric consumption continues to rise due to increased population, the presence of data centers, and electric automobiles, the costs for electricity will rise exponentially. Maryland has responded to increased demand in a counterintuitive way by shutting down electric generating plants, and SB1 has driven out-of-state suppliers from the market. Supply is decreasing, while demand is increasing, and costs are escalating as a result.

I recently retired after 45 years from the Department of the Navy, where I was charged with the procurement of billions of dollars of equipment and services for several classes of Navy ships. My actions were governed by the Competition in Contracting Act of 1994. I understand the benefits of competition more than most people do. Competition lowers costs, increases quality, and drives innovation. Competition attracts new suppliers, increasing supply, further lowering costs. Everybody wins!

Today's emphasis in the political arena is Affordability. Sad to say, many political leaders have made this a campaign promise, then after they are elected, proceed to do the opposite of what they campaigned on. Witness the results of the gubernatorial elections of New Jersey and Virginia. Needless to say, when the cost of living in a state increases, there

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are plenty of other states in the Union with lower costs of living, and people are voting with their feet and moving to those states.

I encourage the General Assembly and the Senate to pass this critical legislation. Together, we can make Maryland a prosperous state. We can make Maryland a state that attracts people and revenue-producing industries to it rather than drive them away.

Gentlemen, this concludes my testimony. Thank you for allowing me to speak. Pending any questions, I yield the remainder of my time.

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