

**Testimony for the hearing on HB974
before the House Environment and Transportation Committee on March 6, 2026**

I appreciate the opportunity to be heard in support of HB974.

I had been customer with WGL Energy (formerly Washington Gas Energy Services) since 2010. I became their customer primarily due to my strong preference to receive clean energy, so I registered with them to receive my electricity, which was 100% wind powered.

I bought my first Prius in 2006 and have continued to drive a hybrid car ever since.

Preservation of our environment is a critical value to me.

I was proud to live in a state where there was choice in energy providers and that I could obtain my energy through wind power.

I was proud to live in a state where climate impact was a concern.

I was dumbfounded to learn late last year that I could no longer have ANY choice of energy providers due to the impact of last year's Senate Bill 1. How could the Maryland Legislature allow this to happen? To go from 100% choice to 0% choice, and the establishment of a monopoly is astounding to me. I'm not so proud now.

Please rectify this matter so that I, and every other Marylander, can return to free choice of an energy provider, and ideally, contribute to preserving our environment.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine Faris".

Lorraine Faris
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