



**House Bill 958 -- *Natural Gas – Connection and Line Extension – Discounts and Payment Plans*
House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 27, 2026
Support**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports House Bill 958 -- *Natural Gas – Connection and Line Extension – Discounts and Payment Plans*.

House Bill 958 prohibits the Public Service Commission from adopting or enforcing a regulation or order that prohibits a public service company from offering a discount or payment plan for the connection or extension of a natural gas line to a customer's property.

Maintaining a stable environment for employers, builders, and future investment is essential. In recent years, Montgomery County has faced significant challenges related to development costs, project timelines, and infrastructure planning. One area of particular concern has been sudden changes in natural gas line extension practices, which have introduced uncertainty for commercial, mixed-use, and institutional projects. When these shifts occur without clear legislative direction, they place additional strain on businesses already navigating complex permitting and construction processes.

HB 958 addresses this issue by preventing the Public Service Commission from creating regulatory barriers that would impose substantial new costs on builders, developers, or other energy users. This clarity is vital for long-term capital planning, especially in a county where development margins are often tight and project feasibility can hinge on upfront infrastructure expenses. Access to reliable and affordable energy options remains fundamental to day-to-day operations. Without such stability, the impacts ripple across Montgomery County, slowing progress on projects that support jobs, housing, and commercial activity.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports House Bill 958 and respectfully requests a favorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), on behalf of its members, champions the growth of business opportunities, strategic infrastructure investments, and a strong workforce to position Metro Maryland as a premier regional, national, and global business location. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent, non-profit membership organization.

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