



House Bill 958

Natural Gas – Connection and Line Extension – Discounts and Payment Plans

Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: February 25, 2026

From: County Commissioners of Worcester County

Worcester County supports House Bill 958.

The Public Service Commission wants new natural gas customers to pay the entire cost of the mainline and service line extensions to their homes upfront. This changes a longtime practice that allowed customers to pay for all, or a portion of, the costs over time. Line extension allowances have historically been permitted for both gas and electric utilities and we believe that should continue. Otherwise, higher upfront costs become a significant financial barrier that will make gas unaffordable for some customers. The elimination of the line extension allowance also means new gas customers will be forced to subsidize existing customers who were able to spread their payments over decades.

At a time when energy is a growing concern in Maryland, the state should be doing what it can do make energy more affordable, not less. This bill ensures that natural gas customers will continue to have access to payment plans.

We urge you to provide this bill with a **favorable** report. Thank you.