



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

Testimony: [HB0540](#) - Investor-Owned Electric, Gas, and Gas and Electric Companies - Utility Rate Changes (Public Service Company Transparency Act)
Hearing Date: Feb. 10, 2026
Bill Sponsor: Delegate Lehman
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Submitting: Liz Feighner for Howard County Climate Action
Position: Favorable

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

[HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. We are also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#). Our organization works with residents and ally organizations to promote a safe climate and clean energy future. Specifically, we have worked extensively on building electrification to help Maryland achieve its ambitious climate goals, including net-zero emissions.

As Maryland families continue to be burdened by ever increasing utility rates, HoCo Climate Action supports legislation that increases transparency and protects ratepayers.

We urge you to vote favorably on [HB0540](#) - **Public Service Company Transparency Act**, which would require utilities to notify customers through a bill insert or e-mail that they are initiating a proceeding with the PSC that may lead to a rate change. Additionally, utilities must prepare an annual rate report and distribute it to customers with a bill insert and post it to their website.

From 2010 to 2024, BGE's electric rates more than doubled while its gas delivery rates more than tripled in that time. Exelon's Pepco and Delmarva Power more than doubled their delivery rates over the same period. In statements at its summer 2024 investor meetings, Exelon pledged higher earnings in each of the coming years to Wall Street investors as a result of capital spending. Utilities were planning capital spending on distribution system projects and asking the PSC for related rate increases years before they show up in customers' bills.

HB0540 will provide greater awareness to gas and electric customers and prevent them from being blind-sided by high increases in their utility bills. It will give them the knowledge and ability to advocate at the PSC before rate increases are baked into their future bills.

For these reasons, we support **HB0540** and recommend a **favorable** report.

Howard County Climate Action
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