

KUMAR P. BARVE
CHAIR



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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chair Marc Korman
Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 642 - Information - Electric Companies - Service Outages and Rate Increases - Report on Customer Impact

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Public Service Commission (the "Commission") appreciates the opportunity to provide this informational testimony for HB 642. This bill requires electric companies to report annually to the Commission "geographic and demographic" data associated with customers impacted by certain service outages and rate increases. The purpose of this testimony is to identify possible impediments to implementation and uncertainties related to ratepayer impacts from the bill as currently drafted, along with ways these issues could be addressed by the Committee.

With respect to implementation, the Commission notes that the terms "geographic" and "demographic" are not defined in the bill. Because the plain meaning of these words generally encompasses a large array of information, it is unclear which specific data the bill would require utilities to provide to the Commission. If the bill were amended to define the terms or narrow the scope of information required, it would allow for a more effective implementation by the Commission and the utilities. Absent this clarification, the Commission may have limited means of enforcing specific reporting requirements.

As to ratepayer impacts, the bill as drafted makes it difficult to determine whether and to what extent the reporting requirement would have an effect on utility customer rates. That determination may depend on whether the utilities would need to incur any expenses to obtain demographic and geographic information from other sources and conduct additional analyses to overlay various data sets. A clarification of which geographic and demographic information the bill requires the utilities to report on may help the utilities and the Commission identify whether any ratepayer impacts are anticipated.

Please contact Niki Wiggins, Director of Legislative Affairs, at irene.wiggins3@maryland.gov if you have any questions related to this informational testimony.

[signature page follows]
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kumar', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Maryland Public Service Commission