



**Bill: HB 673:** Consumer Goods – Restrictions Based on Energy Source – Prohibition (Energy Equality Act of 2026)

**Position: Support**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Energy Solutions strongly supports HB 673 – Consumer Goods – Restrictions Based on Energy Source – Prohibition, the Energy Equality Act of 2026. This legislation is designed to ensure that Maryland residents can continue to purchase and utilize consumer goods regardless of the type of energy used to power those goods, while also repealing provisions of law related to a low emission vehicle program and to a zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicle sales program.

Roughly 27 states have adopted similar “energy choice” bills, which ensure residents can continue to use goods and products powered with the energy source that best matches their needs. These measures preserve consumer choice and have often passed with bipartisan support.

While gas appliances are often of target, Maryland natural gas consumers rely on natural gas because it is affordable and reliable, particularly during periods of extreme cold. Polling conducted on behalf of the American Gas Association (AGA) found Americans oppose banning the use of natural gas by a two-to-one margin. Prioritizing any single energy source can jeopardize overall system reliability and resilience and ultimately drive-up costs for all consumers.

Affordability is another key reason to preserve energy options. Prohibiting energy choice would increase costs for Maryland households and businesses at a time when many are already struggling with utility bills. Continuing to utilize the existing natural gas system remains an affordable option for Maryland homes and businesses and a practical pathway for maintaining energy reliability as the State pursues its climate and clean-energy objectives. Preserving consumer energy options through HB 673 will also allow Maryland to take advantage of new and innovative technologies that can leverage the gas distribution system, including renewable natural gas and hydrogen, which have the potential to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions; efforts to ban natural gas infrastructure and hookups would severely limit the State’s ability to deploy these tools.

For these reasons, the Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Energy Solutions respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 673.

Sincerely,

Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Energy Solutions