

February 27, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: MBIA Letter of Support HB 958 - Natural Gas – Connection and Line Extension – Discounts and Payment Plans

Dear Chair Korman,

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland is writing to express strong support for HB958, legislation that would prohibit the Public Service Commission of Maryland (PSC) from restricting public service companies from offering discounts or payment plans for the connection or extension of natural gas lines to customer properties.

This legislation empowers utilities to provide greater flexibility and affordability for Maryland residents and businesses seeking access to natural gas service. By allowing discounts and payment plans, more customers—particularly those in underserved or economically challenged communities—can connect to natural gas without facing prohibitive upfront costs. This promotes energy equity and helps families and businesses manage their energy expenses more effectively.

Furthermore, enabling utilities to offer tailored payment options encourages efficient expansion of natural gas infrastructure while maintaining customer choice. It provides a practical mechanism for supporting economic development, reducing reliance on less efficient fuels, and improving energy affordability across the State.

Importantly, this approach maintains the competitive and market-driven nature of utility offerings while removing unnecessary regulatory barriers that could slow access to essential energy services. By allowing companies to design customer-friendly programs, Maryland can expand natural gas access safely and responsibly, benefiting both residents and the broader economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to give this legislation a favorable report. Removing barriers to flexible payment options and discounts is a meaningful step toward supporting energy access and affordability for all Marylanders.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee