

HB0054_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/03/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#0054 – FAVORABLE

Task Force to Study Restructuring Maryland's Electric Utility Industry

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0054, Task Force to Study Restructuring Maryland's Electric Utility Industry

Maryland urgently needs to control the rapid and destabilizing increase in utility bills within Maryland. As documented by Earthjustice: ¹

Maryland residents are facing an affordability crisis. Utility bills are rising as the cost of living increases, straining already stretched households and businesses. The gas rates of BGE and Columbia Gas have increased significantly since 2010, with BGE's rates tripling during that period and Columbia Gas rates increasing more than three times the inflation rate. Electric rates for Maryland's Exelon utilities have also increased above inflation rates. Unfortunately, this problem isn't going to get better soon. According to BGE, Marylanders should expect to see another combined increase for gas and electric service of over 12% by June 2025 — this will look like an additional \$26 on a \$210 residential bill.

This bill is an important step Maryland can take in this affordability crisis. It accomplishes this by establishing the Task Force to Study Restructuring Maryland's Electric Utility Industry to study and make recommendations on restructuring the State's electric utility industry; and requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or before November 1, 2027.

The General Assembly can use the data to create legislation to address the problems.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB0054.

¹ <https://earthjustice.org/experts/susan-stevens-miller/its-time-for-the-maryland-legislature-to-seize-the-moment-lower-energy-bills>