



# Maryland

## Energy Administration

**TO:** Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee

**FROM:** MEA

**SUBJECT:** HB 1494 - Electricity and Retail Gas Supply - Customer Choice, Consumer Protection, and Green Power (Retail Energy Modernization and Consumer Choice Act)

**DATE:** March 10, 2026

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### **MEA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

House Bill 1494 proposes updates to Maryland’s retail energy framework by authorizing new product offerings that combine electricity supply with distributed energy resources, emissions–reducing products, and time–of–use pricing structures. These innovations have the potential to support demand response, improve grid reliability, and provide customers with new tools to manage their energy use.

MEA supports the intent of the legislation to modernize the retail energy marketplace and enable emerging products that can support Maryland’s evolving electric grid. At the same time, it is important that any changes to Maryland’s retail energy market maintain the consumer protections enacted by the General Assembly in 2024 to address longstanding concerns regarding predatory marketing practices and excessive pricing in the residential retail supply market. To preserve these protections while allowing innovation, MEA recommends the following amendments:

**1. Purchase of Receivables:** The legislation authorizes the purchase and sale of accounts receivable for certain products. Maryland previously prohibited the purchase of receivables to address significant consumer protection concerns. Under the previous framework, utilities purchased retail supplier receivables and assumed the risk of nonpayment, which in practice shifted that risk to ratepayers and created incentives for some suppliers to enroll customers without regard for their ability to pay. If purchase of receivables (POR) is authorized for certain products, MEA recommends clarifying the scope and limitations of this authorization to ensure that utilities and ratepayers are not exposed to undue financial risk and that consumer protections remain intact. POR should either be stricken from the bill or limited to an amount equal to standard offer service.

**2. Definition and Treatment of Green Power Products:** The bill proposes changes to the definition and treatment of green power products, including the introduction of emissions–free energy certificates and exemptions from certain provisions governing the marketing and pricing of green power products. MEA recommends clarifying the definition and marketing requirements for green power products to ensure that customers receive clear and accurate information about the environmental attributes of the electricity being offered. So called “green power” should not only require that it is "combined with emissions-free energy certificates" in any amount, but rather that the full amount of

electricity provided be accompanied by emissions-free energy certificates. This clarification will help prevent consumer confusion and ensure that products marketed as environmentally beneficial remain transparent and credible.

MEA also notes that related policy discussions are currently underway in the Senate regarding similar issues. Continued coordination between the House and Senate will be important to ensure that any final legislation preserves Maryland's strong consumer protections while allowing responsible innovation in the retail energy market.

For these reasons, MEA urges the committee to adopt the proposed amendments and to issue a **favorable report**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy manager, at [megan.outten@maryland.gov](mailto:megan.outten@maryland.gov) or 443.842.1780.