

**HB 974:** Electricity and Gas - Retail Supply (**Freedom From Monopolies Act**): Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Environment & Transportation Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT HB 974**, *Electricity and Gas - Retail Supply (Freedom From Monopolies Act)*.

**HB 974**, the Freedom From Monopolies Act, would repeal unnecessary regulatory barriers in Maryland's retail electricity and gas supply market, including licensing requirements for individual energy salespersons and vendors, certain residential supply restrictions, and overly prescriptive reporting or consumer list mechanisms. It reduces PSC assessment charges on utilities, safeguards against unfair practices, and streamlines oversight to apply primarily to electricity and gas suppliers themselves.

**At a time when Maryland residents—especially in areas served by BGE—are facing skyrocketing utility bills and limited real competition in energy supply options, this bill promotes free-market principles by restoring meaningful consumer choice.** Recent changes to energy regulations have effectively reduced supplier participation and forced many back to utility defaults, limiting options and driving up costs. **HB 974** would encourage more competitive pricing, innovation, and better service without compromising core consumer protections.

Maryland families deserve affordable, reliable energy through true competition rather than reliance on regulated monopolies.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of HB 974** and help restore competition and choice in our retail energy market.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this critical consumer and economic issue.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals