



TESTIMONY FOR HB0509

Campaign Finance – Contributions by Gas and Electric Utility Companies – Prohibition

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Vogel

Committee: House Government, Labor, and Elections

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Cochair

Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB0509 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

HB0509 prohibits gas and electric utility companies from contributing to candidates for nonfederal office or to campaign finance entities supporting them. These companies have enormous influence over essential services and rate decisions that directly affect Maryland families.

My own utility bills are already high, and campaign contributions from regulated utilities cannot reasonably be interpreted as benefiting ratepayers. Allowing these companies to fund campaigns creates a clear conflict of interest and erodes public trust.

HB0509 directly supports the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We work not only to provide everyday citizens with meaningful access to the legislative process, but also to ensure that Marylanders have clear, accurate information about their legislators' voting records. Reducing the influence of regulated utilities advances transparency, strengthens democratic accountability, and reinforces a political system where voters—not corporate interests—drive decision-making.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB0509.