



## **Position Statement**

### **Letter of Information**

House Government, Labor &  
Elections  
2/11/2026

### **Letter of Information – House Bill 509 – Campaign Finance – Contributions by Gas and Electric Utility Companies – Prohibition**

The Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) submits this letter of information regarding **House Bill 509 – *Investor-Owned Electric, Gas, and Gas and Electric Companies – Utility Rate Changes***. House Bill 509 would prohibit a utility company, as defined in § 1-101 of the Public Utilities Article and doing business in the State, from directly or indirectly making a contribution to (1) the campaign finance entity of a candidate for nonfederal public office in Maryland or (2) any other campaign finance entity organized in support of such a candidate.

As drafted, House Bill 509 will categorically bar investor-owned utilities from contributing to any member of the Maryland General Assembly, as well as to a broad range of local candidates statewide. The Baltimore Gas and Electric Political Action Committee (BGE PAC) is a voluntary, nonpartisan organization that enables BGE employees to participate collectively in Maryland's political process. By supporting the election and re-election of state and local candidates who shape policies affecting BGE and the communities we serve, BGE PAC ensures that employee voices are meaningfully represented in policy discussions. Currently, 131 BGE employees participate in the PAC, demonstrating a strong, engaged employee base committed to Maryland's energy future.

BGE PAC is funded exclusively through voluntary payroll deductions, beginning at \$1 per pay period, with an average employee contribution of approximately \$5 per pay period. BGE PAC fully complies with all Maryland campaign finance requirements, including the \$6,000 per-committee, per-election-cycle contribution limit. BGE PAC is not a Super PAC, does not raise or expend unlimited funds, and operates under a transparent and well-regulated framework designed to ensure fairness, accountability, and compliance with state law.

House Bill 509 will prohibit BGE PAC contributions despite the PAC's longstanding compliance with Maryland's campaign finance laws. Notably, the bill targets only investor-owned electric and gas utilities, while leaving untouched a wide array of other regulated industries.

BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland's largest gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.3 million electric customers and more than 700,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company's approximately 3,400 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's largest energy delivery company.

**John Haysbert | Brittany Jones | Guy Andes | Dytonia Reed | 410.269.5281**



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Telecommunications carriers, insurance companies, hospitals and health systems, financial institutions, and other entities whose revenues are regulated or recovered from Maryland consumers will continue to be able to make political contributions without restriction. Likewise, the bill imposes no limits on political participation by unregulated affiliates, labor organizations, trade associations, municipal utilities, or electric cooperatives.

BGEPAC plays a constructive and transparent role within Maryland's policymaking ecosystem. It fosters employee engagement in the democratic process, strengthens communication with policymakers, and supports advocacy on issues aligned with BGE's mission and its service to the community, not any political party or ideology. Eliminating this form of employee participation would diminish civic engagement rather than enhance accountability.

By singling out only investor-owned utilities for prohibitions that do not apply to any similarly situated regulated industries, House Bill 509 creates an inconsistent and uneven framework for campaign finance regulation. This selective approach raises substantial concerns regarding fairness, equal treatment under the law, and the policy rationale for imposing restrictions on one set of regulated companies while exempting others that also operate under significant state oversight and derive revenue from Maryland residents.

A consistent, uniform, and principled approach to campaign finance regulation, rather than industry-specific prohibitions, will more effectively advance the goals of transparency, integrity, and public trust in Maryland's electoral system.

BGE appreciates the opportunity to provide this information for the General Assembly's consideration.

BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland's largest gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.3 million electric customers and more than 700,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company's approximately 3,400 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's largest energy delivery company.

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