

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

LO26-0043

*Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas
Safety & Affordability*

Public Testimony

KWEISI MFUME

7th DISTRICT, MARYLAND

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MIDDLE EAST
AND NORTH AFRICA

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOUTH AND
CENTRAL ASIA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT
REFORM**

RANKING MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Honorable Zeke Cohen and Members of the Baltimore City Council,

For far too long, residents of Baltimore have suffered from exorbitantly high gas and electricity rates. Baltimore Gas and Electric's (BGE) 2024-2026 multiyear rate plan has been a significant cause, increasing electric and gas distribution rates far beyond the pace of inflation. In 2023, Baltimoreans paid slightly less than 70 cents in distribution charges for every therm of gas that they consumed. This year, Baltimoreans pay nearly a dollar per therm.¹ That may not seem significant, but with households often consuming hundreds of therms of natural gas a year, many residents pay hundreds more in yearly gas costs compared to just three years ago.

Simply put, my constituents cannot afford these cost increases. Since the steep 2025 rate increase came into effect, my office has received nearly 200 requests for assistance – doubtless a small fraction of the thousands of Baltimoreans that now face significant hardship affording their bills. These increases hit older adults and those on fixed incomes especially hard, and my constituents have reported significant issues accessing call center and receiving turn-off notices required for bill assistance from many non-profit organizations. This compelled Maryland's Public Service Commission (PSC) to halt all cuts-offs until April 1st.² While this will provide consumers with a small sense of release, the heart of the issue remains the same. The overarching matter of affordability must require an all hands on deck approach from all levels of government. Both long-term and immediate efforts are needed to provide residents with the relief they desperately need.

BGE collected \$527 million in net income in 2024 – over double the \$198 million they earned in 2014. In fact, Exelon notes in their 10-k filing that net income increased by \$42 million from 2023 to 2024 primarily due to favorable distribution rates – favorable distribution rates allegedly needed to pay for infrastructure repair.³

Their own filings make it clear that BGE can easily afford the repairs that they claim they can only pay for with significant distribution rate increases that fall on the backs of everyday Baltimoreans. New developments, including the enactment of the Next

¹ Office of People's Counsel, State of Maryland, *Utility Rates and Basics – BGE*, Feb. 2026. [Link](#).

² <https://www.thebanner.com/economy/bge-psc-shutoffs-PYRJBTCDJFD5OWTMRDO5XQWKU/>

³ Exelon, 10-K, Feb. 12, 2025, at 62. [Link](#).

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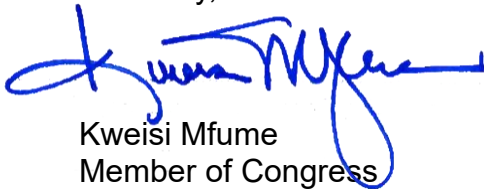
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Generation Energy Act and the Maryland Public Service Commission's recent halving of BGE's attempted reconciliation rate increase, create hope that the era of blank checks has ended. I urge the Maryland Public Service Commission to continue standing up to unnecessary rate increases, and I urge our public utility to take seriously their obligation to our community to keep rates low, faithfully assist those in need, and end the planned layoffs of 68 employees in the midst of record profits.⁴

Sincerely,



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress

⁴ <https://www.baltimoresun.com/2026/02/06/bge-layoffs-union-management/>

March 12, 2026

Baltimore City Council Committee of the Whole
100 Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear President Cohen and the Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Council,

Below you will find written testimony in response to LO26-0043 – Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety and Affordability. We recognize the important role the Baltimore City Council plays in representing our customers, and while BGE is a private company regulated by the Maryland Public Service Commission, we remain committed to providing clear, accurate information and meaningful solutions to the issues raised by Baltimore residents.

We view this hearing as a continuation of the extensive hearings and briefings we participated in last year. Over the past year, our team has devoted significant time and resources to supporting this legislative body and responding to its inquiries. This written testimony supplements the detailed information previously provided. The information below outlines the cold weather's impact on affordability, our commitment to safety and fact-based dialogue, and the critical role that contractors play in BGE's ability to safely and reliably serve our 1.3 million electric and 700,000 gas customers.

Cold Weather Impact on Affordability

Maryland is nearing the end of one of the coldest winters in recent history. During sustained extreme temperatures, BGE provided safe and reliable service as a result of years of proactive investment in maintaining and modernizing energy infrastructure throughout central Maryland.

In terms of same-month comparison over the last decade, this winter had the coldest December, second-coldest January, and coldest February, according to Heating Degree Day (HDD)¹ data—a key indicator of heating demand. During these historically frigid three months, BGE customers across central Maryland used significantly more energy. For example:

¹ As defined by the National Weather Service: [Degree days](#) are based on the assumption that when the outside temperature is 65°F, we don't need heating or cooling to be comfortable. Degree days are the difference between the daily temperature mean, (high temperature plus low temperature divided by two) and 65°F. If the temperature mean is below 65°F, we subtract the mean from 65 and the result is Heating Degree Days.

- The average residential gas heating customer² used 13% more gas this December compared to December 2024.
- The average residential electric heating customer used 8% more electricity this December compared to December 2024.
- The average residential gas heating customer used 8% more gas this February compared to last February.
- The average residential electric heating customer used 10% more electricity this February compared to last February.

Importantly, **electric heating customers on average experienced a higher percentage year-over-year bill increase** in the months listed above. In terms of dollars, their bill increase on average was higher than gas heating customers in December and only 15 cents lower than the increase gas heating customers experienced on average in February.

These numbers are a clear indicator that energy costs are driven by more than one single variable.

Gas usage was the story in late January, when Baltimore saw the most significant cold stretch in over 15 years with several days of sub-freezing temperatures. Our gas system delivered to customers the energy equivalent of the highest ever demand on our electric system—nearly *every hour* for a week-long period.

When cold temperatures persist, heating systems must work harder, even if thermostat settings remain unchanged. This dynamic can increase overall energy use for both gas heating and electric heating customers. Customers with gas heat may also see impacts on their electric bills due to the electrical components that support HVAC systems and circulate warm air. Winter is typically when gas heating customers use far more gas than any other time during the year, and their proportionately high usage is reflected in energy bills.

The combination of record-level cold temperatures in December, January, and February and the stretch of extreme cold helps explain higher winter energy use and the resulting impacts on customer bills. This underscores the importance of continued customer education on bill drivers, energy management tools, along with making sure customers know about and can easily access energy assistance and support programs designed to help during difficult months.

The Need for a Complete and Accurate Conversation

The stated purpose for this Legislative Oversight hearing is to discuss BGE's business practices related to gas, high gas bills, and gas pipeline inspections. Although the focus of this hearing seems to be on gas delivery charges, overall bill impacts are influenced by **multiple entities and regulatory drivers**. To

² Gas heating customers with electric lights (R+DH).

provide residents with a complete and accurate understanding of affordability, and the levers that actually affect it, we recommended expanding the list of participating stakeholders.

These include:

- 1. Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC)**
- 2. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)**
- 3. American Gas Association (AGA)**
- 4. PJM Interconnection**
- 5. Gas generation and supply entities**

The Council President's office solicited recommendations for additional participants, and we provided them promptly and in good faith. Without these organizations, any public discussion of energy costs will provide an incomplete narrative that obscures rather than clarifies the forces shaping customer bills.

Baltimore residents deserve more than a narrow conversation on this multifaceted issue; they deserve transparency, accuracy, and practical paths forward.

Fostering a Productive and Fact-Based Dialogue

BGE stands ready to participate in any public forum designed to inform residents and advance real, workable solutions to energy affordability challenges. We remain willing to answer relevant questions in writing and to join any good-faith discussion that includes the entities responsible for energy regulation, operation, and advocacy. In addition, we would hope the discussion includes immediate actions Baltimore City could take to streamline city processes to help lower utility costs for customers.

Hearings that focus on scapegoating a single participant in a complex system may generate headlines, but they do nothing of substance to address energy affordability. Instead, this political theater misleads our customers about the sources of energy policy, regulatory authority, and cost drivers on their bill, while doing nothing to lower bills or improve affordability. Only a complete, fact-based conversation can do that, and we remain committed to supporting it.

BGE's Commitment to Safety

Safety is, and always has been, BGE's highest priority. Our foremost responsibility is ensuring that the electric and gas infrastructure serving our customers, including Baltimore residents, is maintained and operated to the highest standards. We are proud that BGE consistently meets and exceeds industry best practices for operational integrity and public safety.

Nearly all of BGE's gas system investments focus on regulatory compliance and public safety. Of course, regulatory compliance in itself is an extension of safety, as many of those regulations exist to prevent

safety incidents and keep customers, the public, and employees safe. Many of these regulations focus on integrity management, which require utilities like BGE to identify their risks and threats and develop mitigations to those risks.

BGE regularly evaluates and updates its integrity management plans, and these plans are reviewed by the Maryland Public Service Commission's Engineering Division. The Commission's Engineering Division's inspections must utilize a Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)³-defined process and inspection forms and demonstrate an appropriate level of oversight. PHMSA, in turn, reviews these inspections as part of its own evaluation of the Commission's compliance. These integrity management plans drive many of the programs and work BGE invests in—the customer benefits that come with compliance to these programs are obvious—a safer and more reliable gas system. In fact, these investments have reduced the number of underground leaks on BGE's pipelines by half since the passage of the STRIDE Act in 2013.

A safer system at a lower cost for customers

By proactively replacing the riskiest, worst-performing gas pipes on our system, our customers are benefitting from safer, more reliable service and **paying less through their bills** compared to the cost of abandoning this critical work:

- Proactive replacement under STRIDE costs the average residential customer roughly \$10–\$12 per month.
- If instead leaks had been repeatedly repaired over the previous decade (i.e., no proactive replacement), **costs could have risen to an estimated \$20 per month or more on the average residential customer bill.**

Emergency repairs are more expensive, more disruptive, and less effective at reducing future risk. Proactive replacement of aging pipes, on the other hand, continues to increase system safety and performance. **Underground leaks have decreased 45%** over the last decade+ largely as a result of our proactive work to replace cast iron and bare steel main. In addition, the resulting reduction in annual operational GHG emissions from the gas distribution system is vital to helping the state of Maryland achieve its ambitious climate goals under the Climate Solutions Now Act.

We've made outstanding progress for our customers and communities, but we still have work to do. BGE's natural gas distribution system has roughly 800 miles of aging cast iron and bare steel main. This infrastructure is at least 60 years old; more than half is over 100 years old. Roughly 80% of this outmoded infrastructure is located in Baltimore City. On a city block (roughly 500 feet long), a customer is likely to experience a gas leak on their street once every 3-4 years if the infrastructure is aged (cast iron with bare steel services), but never in their lifetime if the infrastructure is new (plastic).

³ PHMSA is the federal agency that advances the safe transportation of energy and other hazardous materials by establishing national policy, setting and enforcing standards, educating, and conducting research.

Outmoded infrastructure represents 11% of BGE’s entire gas distribution system, but accounts for two-thirds of gas system leaks. This is a reminder that BGE is **not** engaged in “wholesale replacement” of the gas system; we are targeting the worst-performing assets. Unfortunately, the rate of leaks from cast iron gas mains continues to increase, effectively doubling since 2011. The imperative for replacing this aging infrastructure is even greater now than in 2013 when STRIDE was first passed.

Calls to reduce the pace of replacement of this infrastructure are misinformed, misleading, and irresponsible – especially from a safety perspective. Above all, upgrading the system is the right thing to do for our customers, now and into the future.

Enhancements to BGE’s Inspection and Oversight Processes

BGE has taken significant proactive steps to strengthen inspection processes, enhance oversight, and reinforce accountability. These include:

More Frequent Reviews

- **Bi-weekly reviews** of inspection report data conducted jointly by inspectors and supervisors to ensure consistency and compliance.
- **Weekly supervisory reviews** of Stop Work and Unsatisfactory (UnSat) responses to ensure timely follow-up and corrective action.
- **Monthly field audits** conducted by supervisors at job sites to identify and document deficiencies requiring attention.
- **Weekly contractor audits** of inspection tracking tools to confirm task completion and address outstanding issues.
- **Strengthened Documentation Expectations**

Gas leadership has reinforced expectations that inspectors thoroughly document all observations for every audit performed, improving transparency and traceability.

The important role of contractors

Contractors provide scalability, cost-effectiveness, and expertise that complements our internal workforce.

BGE requires all contractors performing work on our gas system to hold specialized operator qualification certifications. Our oversight model includes multiple layers of verification, detailed documentation, and random inspections to hold contractors accountable. This framework reflects our unwavering commitment to safety, transparency, and public trust.

Commitment to safety and serving our customers

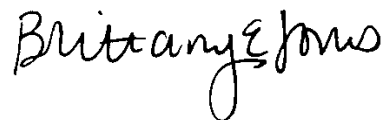
Our customers deserve safe and reliable gas and electric service. We continuously monitor, maintain, and upgrade our energy delivery systems to meet the needs of our customers, now and into the future.

Our commitment to the residents of Baltimore, and to all our customers, is clear:

- **Safety will always be our top priority.**
- **We will continue to strengthen oversight and operational excellence.**
- **We will remain transparent and collaborative in addressing affordability challenges.**

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the City Council, regulatory partners, and community stakeholders to ensure a safe, reliable, and affordable energy system for all Baltimore residents.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 12, 2026

Zeke Cohen
Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Testimony on LO26-0043, Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability,

Dear Council President Cohen and members of the council,

On behalf of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI), I submit for the record our comments on Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability. GHHI is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit organization headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland. Our mission is to address the social determinants of health, opportunity and racial and health equity through the creation of healthy, safe and climate resilient homes.

GHHI is the nation's lead authority on the benefits of a whole-house approach that aligns, braids and coordinates energy efficiency, health and safety to create an integrated home repair and retrofit delivery model to improve health, economic and social outcomes in line with the state's climate goals. GHHI's work has been recognized through national best practice awards from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and HUD and the GHHI model has been supported by the US Department of Energy (DOE) and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as well as numerous states, cities and counties throughout the US. By delivering a standard of excellence, GHHI's work aims to eradicate the negative impact of historic disinvestment, the legacy of ill-conceived and unjust housing by creating holistically healthy housing for children, seniors and families in Maryland's low wealth communities.

As president and chief executive officer of GHHI, I direct GHHI's national strategy as well as serve as a member of the EPA Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC), the National Council of State Housing Agencies' National Advisory Group, the American Public Health Association (APHA) Environmental Leadership Network, and chair the board of Healthy Climate Maryland coalition, and the Maryland Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission.

The subject of this hearing is of great importance to GHHI as our work sits at the intersection of energy, housing, and healthcare, which are also the issues families care most about in Maryland and across the country. As the Council is aware, BGE's gas system spending fails to improve safety while putting an unsustainable cost burden on low- and middle-income Baltimore households. In addition, the Council and the public should know about the severe health and climate risks posed by BGE's expansion of its methane gas pipeline infrastructure.

GHHI Written Testimony – LO26-0043

March 12, 2026

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Burning methane gas produces a range of dangerous chemicals which build up in our homes during cooking, including nitrogen dioxide, formaldehyde, and benzene (a known carcinogen found in cigarette smoke). In their 2024 report “Cooking Up Danger”, the Beyond Gas coalition detailed the findings of a long-term community study which tested 663 kitchens with gas stoves in DC and Montgomery County and found that 416 (or 63%) recorded nitrogen dioxide readings at or above 100 parts per billion (ppb), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s health-protective standard for one hour of exposure. Rigorous research has found that children in homes with gas stoves have a 42% higher chance of asthma than children in homes with electric stoves.¹ Gas stove usage is also linked with higher rates of reproductive problems, cardiovascular damage, cancer, and early death.

And it is not just gas stoves that are harming our air quality and health – other gas appliances that vent to the outdoors result in high levels of dangerous smog in our neighborhoods. Pollution from burning fossil fuels to power our buildings is estimated to cause 3,500 additional cases of respiratory symptoms and 163 premature deaths in Maryland annually.² In addition to these direct health hazards, methane, which leaks from gas pipes and equipment, is an extremely potent greenhouse gas, with 80x the warming impact of carbon dioxide. To mitigate its impacts, Maryland’s state Climate Pollution Reduction Plan calls for a swift transition to clean, efficient, electric power in our buildings. In 2024, Governor Moore addressed this by releasing an Executive Order calling for a zero-emission heating equipment standard regulation and a clean heat standard regulation, which are currently being developed by the Maryland Department of the Environment.³

Baltimore City should lead the way in Maryland’s quest to move on from polluting energy sources. By weatherizing and insulating homes, updating old gas appliances to new highly efficient electric versions, and adding solar to rooftops, the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative is helping our Baltimore clients get off gas, save on their bills, and make their homes and neighborhoods healthier and safer. BGE should follow suit and stop expanding the gas system, replace only truly dangerous pipes and only where alternative methods of stabilization are not feasible, and divert those resources to speeding up the switch to a clean heat future.

The City Council can also play a significant role in this shift by requiring new buildings to be all-electric – which is more energy efficient and cost effective, and which has already been done in Montgomery County – and by providing support for low and middle income households to transition off of gas. DC’s Healthy Homes and Residential Electrification Amendment Act of 2024, which created a fund to provide electrification services to income-qualified homes, can serve as a model in this regard.

¹ Meta-analysis of the effects of indoor nitrogen dioxide and gas cooking on asthma and wheeze in children”, Liu et al, 2013

² Cutting through the Smog: How Air Quality Standards Help Solve the Hidden Health Toll of Air Pollution from Maryland’s Homes & Businesses”, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative et al, 2023

³ <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/governor-moore-signs-executive-order-to-advance-maryland%E2%80%99s-pollution-reduction-plan.aspx>

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March 12, 2026

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Together we can transition to a cleaner, healthier, safer, and more affordable energy efficient future for our families and avoid spending that does not prioritize public health, security, and costs. Thank you for your leadership on this important matter.

Respectfully Submitted

Signed by:

Ruth Ann Norton

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Ruth Ann Norton
President and CEO



Dear Council President Cohen and Members of the City Council,

My name is Leo Cunningham and I'm a resident of the 3rd District. I am an artist and educator. I own my own home, work multiple jobs, but can barely afford to pay my monthly bills.

I know folks who have had their power shut-off and folks whose already tight budgets have been unnecessarily strained by these inflated bills. Personally, I've done everything I can to keep my bills lower—added insulation, kept my thermostat at or below 60 degrees, and avoided using electric heaters and large appliances—but my bill keeps going up. This month, for the first time in my entire life, I am late on a bill because I am trying to source the funds to pay it.

Since 2010, BGE has raised gas delivery rates by 246% and electric delivery rates by 92%, putting growing pressure on household budgets across Baltimore. Over that same period, the company's profits have more than tripled. So when BGE points to inflation or other supposedly "out-of-their-control" forces to explain soaring bills, that narrative deserves serious scrutiny. This is a for-profit monopoly accountable to shareholders alone, consistently placing profit maximization ahead of affordability, service reliability, public health, and a livable future for Baltimore.

There is, however, a proven alternative to this profit-driven utility model: public power. Across the United States, thousands of communities rely on publicly owned utilities—from major cities like Los Angeles and Austin to the entire state of Nebraska.

It's no coincidence that public power customers generally pay less. On average, rates are about 13% lower than those charged by for-profit utilities, and in some regions the savings reach 50% or more. Publicly owned utilities also tend to lead on clean energy adoption and reinvest more directly in the communities they serve.

As Baltimore residents struggle to get by and many face impossible choices between heating their homes and paying for essential medication, this moment calls for bold leadership. Baltimore must seriously consider taking control of its energy future.

Our elected officials owe us real solutions, not excuses. Public power offers a well-established alternative to corporate profiteering and punishing rates that BGE customers have endured for years. **I strongly urge the City Council to meaningfully explore public power for Baltimore.**

Sincerely,
Leo Cunningham

March 11, 2026

Comment Only Testimony on LO26-0043
Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Dear Council President Cohen and Members of the City Council,

My name is Andrew Hinz and I live in the 1400 block of Park Avenue—I have lived here the last 15 years and in Maryland my whole life. Before moving to the city I was able to install a geothermal HVAC system in my prior residence to replace an old oil-fired furnace. Geothermal heat pumps are absolutely fabulous—and we now have affordable air-to-water heat pumps that can replace oil and methane boilers for radiant heat in our old rowhomes.

My first main point is that methane is inherently unsafe both locally and globally. I have the methane boiler in my 1880 rowhome serviced annually. In spite of that when I had an energy audit done last year 2 methane leaks were found—one 6 feet from the meter in my basement and the other 1 foot from the methane boiler in my basement. The methane was collecting in our bedroom on the second floor—it was not an amount that would explode but it is not healthy to breathe. I hope to replace that methane boiler with an electric air-to-water heat pump as soon as I can afford it or can borrow the money to do it. I have been fortunate enough to be able to afford converting both a methane-fueled cooktop and a methane-fueled water heater to safe and efficient electric appliances. Globally, methane is a potent greenhouse gas and recent studies show it leaks more than we suspected everywhere in its supply chain, and it's supply chain is more harmful to human health than previously documented—it keeps getting worse you all.

My second main point is that we here in Baltimore city can easily generate our own electricity with all the built environment we already have for rooftop solar, carpark canopy solar, brownfield solar, and industry and business. We could even build a pumped-storage hydro long-term battery storage system with our stormwater runoff and repurposed tunnels and fossil fuel storage tanks. We could be exporting clean electricity to the rest of the state!

We need clean and reliable and affordable energy now. Wind and solar are now cheaper BY FAR than methane and they continue to get cheaper. Exelon is not us and never was us. BGE sold out and left just like the Colts. Its time for all of us to take control of our electrons and tell Exelon to go find another city of suckers.

We should declare the city an Energy Justice Microgrid, and become energy independent of Exelon and PJM and the fossil fuel oligarchs who are gouging us as they destroy the climate—ALL this Petrostate fascism and skyrocketing bills when we have cheaper and cleaner alternatives.

Public Power NOW!

Sincerely,
Andrew Hinz
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Baltimore, MD 21217
443-617-4079
ahinz61@outlook.com



February 11, 2026

**Comment Only Testimony on LO26-0043
Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability**

Dear Council President Cohen and Members of the City Council,

My name is Taylor Smith-Hams and I'm a resident of the 14th District. I'm here today as a member of the Baltimore Public Power Campaign, a grassroots campaign to transition away from our reliance on BGE's exploitative monopoly to a publicly-owned utility that will ensure lower bills, cleaner energy, and local control for Baltimore City residents. We believe that energy is a human right, not a commodity for monopoly corporations like BGE to profit off of.

As we all know, BGE's profits have tripled since 2010. Meanwhile, all of us have seen our bills skyrocket during that same time period. So it's pretty obvious that what the company says about all of this gas infrastructure spending being about safety is just not true – it's about money.

As a longtime organizer and activist, I have testified at the Public Service Commission against BGE rate hikes. I have advocated in support of utility reforms in Annapolis. I have encouraged my friends and neighbors to do the same. But it's not working – people still can't pay their bills. Households are still having their power shut off. And we haven't stopped them from building more gas infrastructure in the middle of a climate crisis.

We need to be brave enough to put a different vision forward. Across the country, 2,000 communities are powered by public utilities that prioritize benefits for their customers, not profits for faraway shareholders. And the data is clear: public power is cheaper, more reliable, and cleaner than privately owned utilities.¹ Public power leads to more investment in local communities and residents have more control and get to participate in running it.

From large cities like Austin to small towns in Nebraska, public power is working for people across the country. And more and more communities are trying to make the switch.² In December, a campaign for public power in upstate New York released a feasibility study that found that taking over their grid would save close to \$3 billion over 30 years.³ Winter Park, FL

¹ American Public Power Association. [Stats and Facts](#). 2026.

² Derek Seidman. [As Electricity Bills Rise, Activists Are Demanding Public Control of Utilities](#). Truthout. January 2, 2026.

³ Hudson Valley for Public Power. [Study: HVPA Will Save Money](#).

made the switch to public power two decades ago and has successfully lowered rates by 24% compared to Duke Energy and has increased reliability and resilience during storms.⁴

As Baltimoreans struggle to make ends meet and are being forced to choose between paying their utility bills or for medication this winter, now is the time for Baltimore to be bold and to take control over our energy.

Oversight hearings like this are nice, but we need real action and solutions from our elected officials. Public power is a proven alternative to the corporate profiteering and extortionist rates we have all been victim to as BGE customers. I urge the City Council to seriously explore public power in Baltimore.

Sincerely,
Taylor Smith-Hams

⁴ Susan Partain. [Fulfilling Promises: 20 Years of Public Power in Winter Park](#). American Public Power Association. July 1, 2025.

City Council Testimony 2-11-26

February 11, 2026

Comment Only Testimony on LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Dear Council President Cohen and Members of the City Council,

My name is Abigail Ulman and I'm a resident of the District 14. I'm a public health professional and a former campaign lead for We Power DC, a grassroots public power campaign in the District of Columbia. I moved to Baltimore almost 4 years ago for grad school and now consider the city home.

I'm here today as a member of the Baltimore Public Power Campaign, a grassroots campaign to transition away from our reliance on BGE's exploitative monopoly to a publicly-owned utility that will ensure lower bills, cleaner energy, and local control for Baltimore City residents. We believe that energy is a human right, not a commodity for corporations like BGE to profit off of.

Since 2010, BGE's gas delivery rates have increased by 246% and electric delivery rates by 92%, straining all of our pockets. During that same time, BGE's profits have tripled. **So when BGE blames high bills on inflation or other factors "outside of their control," you need to call them on it. This is a for-profit, monopoly corporation that answers only to shareholders, prioritizing the maximization of profits over affordability, reliability, the health of the people of Baltimore, and a liveable future.**

Due to BGE's consistent rate hikes, my bill has doubled from this month last year. Luckily, I have a well-paying job and am able to afford my bill, but thousands of Baltimoreans cannot. Residents should not have to choose between rent or groceries or medicine or their BGE bill – it is absolutely absurd that BGE bills are as high as some residents' rent!

Thankfully, there is a real alternative to the predatory profit-driven utility model: public power. There are thousands of publicly-owned utilities across the country, from big cities like Sacramento and Seattle to the entire state of Nebraska.

Unsurprisingly, public power customers pay less than their for-profit counterparts. On average, public power customers pay 13% less than customers of for-profit utilities. And in some areas like Sacramento and Silicon Valley, the difference can be as extreme as 50 to 60%! Public utilities are also leaders in the transition to clean energy, and they invest 9% more in local communities than for-profit utility corporations.

As Baltimoreans struggle to make ends meet and are being forced to choose between paying their utility bills or for medication this winter, now is the time for Baltimore to be bold and to take control over our energy.

We need real action and solutions from our elected officials. Public power is a proven alternative to the corporate profiteering and extortionist rates we have all been victim to as BGE customers. With the over 2,000 publicly-owned utilities in the country, Baltimore has a well-tested and effective precedent to follow in our city. **I urge the City Council to seriously explore public power in Baltimore.** Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Abigail Ulman, MPH

My name is Zoe Feldman, I am a resident of Baltimore City, and I'm here today because BGE's ongoing rate increases are not just spreadsheets on a slide – they are real bills hitting real families in Baltimore and throughout Maryland.

I want to speak plainly about what is happening:

Customers are paying dramatically more each year, while BGE's profits have grown substantially.

Rate Increases Have Also Far Outpaced Inflation.

- According to advocates and regulatory data, BGE's gas delivery rates have more than tripled since 2010 and electric delivery rates have roughly doubled over the same period – far faster than general inflation.
- Consumer watchdog groups report gas rates for the average residential BGE customer are about \$500 higher this year just because delivery rates have risen so much, even with the same usage.
- Since 2020, BGE's gas rates have increased roughly 50% and electric rates about 30%, again outpacing inflation substantially over that period.

These increases have hit residents hard – folks who turn down thermostats, install insulation, and otherwise conserve energy still see rising bills because the delivery charges – not just usage – keep climbing.

We've heard BGE argue these rate hikes are necessary to pay for infrastructure upgrades. But what the public doesn't always see is how that correlates with profits:

- Before Exelon's acquisition of BGE, annual profits were under about \$150 million.
- After years of regulatory approval for higher rates, BGE's profits grew to about \$527 million in 2024.

That means profits more than tripled over roughly a decade – even as customers struggled to afford rising bills.

And while Exelon is a large national utility, its ability to boost earnings – including through higher regulated rates – shows how rate mechanisms and corporate strategy can benefit shareholders at the expense of ratepayers if left unchecked. Under Maryland's revenue decoupling and multi-year rate plan system, utilities like BGE are insulated from weather-dependent changes in usage – meaning they recover revenue regardless of customer consumption behaviors.

While this structure aims to stabilize utility finances, in practice it shifts risk onto customers and reduces pressure on the utility to control costs or limit rate increases.

Across Baltimore and Maryland:

- Residents report bills in the hundreds of dollars higher with little change in usage over previous years.
- City leaders, including the Baltimore City Council president, have called on the PSC to pause multi-year rate hikes and reconsider the pace of increases because they are “relentless” and outpacing safety or service improvements.

We urge regulators and policymakers to consider the following:

1. Slow or pause future rate increases until affordability concerns are addressed.
2. Increase transparency about cost drivers and profit margins so ratepayers can clearly see what they are being charged for.
3. Strengthen regulatory oversight to ensure that infrastructure spending prioritizes safety and efficiency – not just profit maximization.

1. Why I'm Speaking Up

I live and work in Baltimore's East Side and serve a private Jewish day school where the majority of families are low-income. My own recent experience - being over-billed \$750 for gas and having to force the PSC to review a decade-long utility history - shows how BGE's practices hurt everyday residents.

2. Key Facts (All 2024-2025 data)

Issue	Data Point	Why It Matters
For-profit mandate	BGE is owned by Exelon, a publicly-traded utility. Its primary fiduciary duty is to shareholders, not customers.	Corporate decisions prioritize profit over affordability.
Shareholder ties to Maryland	Maryland retirement funds (e.g., MD 529, public employee pension plans) hold large Exelon positions.	Creates regulatory capture – the PSC is incentivized to favor BGE.
Delivery-fee hikes	Gas delivery rates ↑ 246 % (2010-2024) – ≈ 3× inflation. Electric delivery rates ↑ 92 % – ≈ 2× inflation.	Residents face bill spikes of \$500-\$1,500 during heat waves.
Profit growth	Net profit: \$147 M (2010) → \$527 M (2024).	Profit tripling while customers pay more.
Energy burden	82 % of Baltimore City residents list household energy cost as a major issue. 2022: City's net energy burden = 11 % (highest in MD).	Energy costs are a leading cause of financial distress.
Utility debt	Customer debt rose to \$117 M (2025) from \$84 M (2022).	Debt burden pushes families toward arrears and disconnection.
Infrastructure "investment"	BGE digs up primary roads for gas-line replacement, does minimal repairs, leaving the city to fund full restoration.	Taxpayers shoulder costs for BGE's profit-driven projects.

3. The Real Cost to Baltimore Families

Food vs. Power: Many families must choose between groceries/medication and keeping the lights on.

Housing Instability: Unaffordable bills increase risk of utility shut-offs, exacerbating homelessness.

Health Impacts: Cold homes in winter raise asthma attacks and other health emergencies, especially among children.

4. Public Power – A Proven, Affordable Alternative

Metric	Public Power (national average)	Investor-Owned Utilities
Customer price advantage	13 % lower overall; some markets see 50-60 % savings.	Higher rates to cover profit margins.
Clean-energy leadership	Public utilities lead in renewable-energy adoption and community-solar programs.	Profit motives can delay transition.
Local reinvestment	Profits are reinvested locally (grid upgrades, education, job training).	Profits flow to distant shareholders.
Examples	Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power; Austin Energy; Nebraska Public Power District.	Comparable regions with IOUs have higher rates and lower local investment.

5. What Baltimore Must Do – Action Items for the City Council

Commission an independent cost-benefit analysis of converting BGE service to a municipally-owned public power entity.

Mandate transparency: Require BGE to disclose all infrastructure contracts, road-repair costs, and delivery-fee calculations.

Protect low-income households: Freeze or roll back delivery-fee increases until a public-power feasibility study is completed.

Explore partnerships with existing public utilities (e.g., PEPCO's public-power pilot, regional cooperatives) to leverage expertise.

Engage community voices: Hold town-hall meetings in affected neighborhoods, especially low-income districts, to gather input and build consensus.

6. Closing Appeal

Baltimore has a moral and economic imperative to stop subsidizing corporate profit at the expense of its residents. Public power is not a theoretical ideal - it is a practical, proven model that delivers lower bills, cleaner energy, and community reinvestment. I respectfully urge the Council to seriously explore a public-power transition and protect the most vulnerable Baltimoreans from predatory utility practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my thoughts. I am happy to answer any questions and provide further data as needed.

BGE costs are already out of hand, and constantly getting even more unaffordable.

Meanwhile, public power is cheaper, cleaner, and popular with the people. The City Council needs to commit to a new utility system that actually works for the people, and doesn't bankrupt them!!!

Good evening,

My name is Sophie Content. I am pursuing my degree in social work with the aim of advocating for women's health in Baltimore. However, balancing tuition with the skyrocketing utility cost remains increasingly difficult. I worry about next year, should these prices continue.

I keep my house at 59 degrees to try to mitigate the cost. For reference, the house is under 1000 sq ft with only two occupants. Every external door and all windows has insulation film on any glass and I've redone the weather stripping. There are towels tucked into every window sill. When guests come through the front door, I'm sure they feel like I'm rushing them because I don't want the heat to escape. And yet, with all of these efforts, our bill has been pushing \$600 since November.

This is unacceptable. Even considering the rising costs of delivery and citizens footing the expense for data centers many of us do not want, these numbers do not make sense.

Please hear my testimony and take appropriate action to hold BGE accountable. These nonsensical price increases cannot continue like this. Thank you for your time and efforts, they are appreciated.

To whom it may concern:

My name is Kathleen, and I am submitting testimony to comment on the discussion of BGE's business practices. Although I am a County resident, I feel it is important to speak out on the direction the city takes as it would have a lasting impact on the greater Baltimore area at large, and that it is important to set a precedence for the case for public power and to speak out against the practices at BGE.

I'm here today as a member of the Baltimore Public Power Campaign, a grassroots campaign to transition away from our reliance on BGE's exploitative monopoly to a publicly-owned utility that will ensure lower bills, cleaner energy, and local control for Baltimore City residents. We believe that energy is a human right, not a commodity for corporations like BGE to profit off of.

Since 2010, BGE's gas delivery rates have increased by 246% and electric delivery rates by 92%, straining all of our pockets. During that same time, BGE's profits have tripled. So when BGE blames high bills on inflation or other factors "outside of [their] control," you need to call them on it. This is a for-profit, monopoly corporation that answers only to shareholders, prioritizing the maximization of profits over affordability, reliability, the health of the people of Baltimore, and a liveable future.

Thankfully, there is a real alternative to the predatory profit-driven utility model: public power. There are thousands of publicly-owned utilities across the country, from big cities like Los Angeles and Austin to the entire state of Nebraska.

Unsurprisingly, public power customers pay less than their for-profit counterparts. On average, public power customers pay 13% less than customers of for-profit utilities. And in some areas, the difference can be as extreme as 50 and 60%. Public utilities are also leaders in the transition to clean energy, and they invest more in local communities than for-profit utility corporations.

As Baltimoreans struggle to make ends meet and are being forced to choose between paying their utility bills or for medication this winter, now is the time for Baltimore to be bold and to take control over our energy.

We need real action and solutions from our elected officials. Public power is a proven alternative to the corporate profiteering and extortionist rates we have all been victim to as BGE customers. I urge the City Council to seriously explore public power in Baltimore.

Respectfully yours,
Kathleen Makusky

February 11, 2026

Comment Only Testimony on LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Dear Council President Cohen and Members of the City Council,

My name is Anna Duke and I'm a resident of District 1. I'm a social worker and a neighbor in Highlandtown.

I'm here today as a member of the Baltimore Public Power Campaign, a community led campaign to provide citizens of Baltimore public gas and electric, instead of relying on an exploitative private cooperation (BGE). Power is a human right and Baltimore deserves a public power that is accountable to Baltimore residents, not corporate shareholders.

For the past two years, BGE rates have skyrocketed while my neighbors and I have faced disruptive construction of new gas lines, power outages and failures of said new gas equipment. I and members of my community are in fear of each new BGE bill, knowing that despite rationing heat during this extreme cold, we will be receiving utility bills that are higher than ever.

Services that are essential to citizen's lives should be public. BGE's profits have tripled since 2010, and we are the ones paying for it. It's not an inevitability that citizens are bled dry by corporations in order to heat and cool their homes. If the power was made public, then we wouldn't have to fight with shareholder greed.

This is an issue that unites all of Baltimore. BGE's monopoly on gas and electricity in the city has led to increasingly inhumane conditions for residents. I strongly urge you to consider public power.

Sincerely,

Anna Duke

(City Council)

From: borzois.denim-5g@icloud.com
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 1:05 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Bill LO26-0043 Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety and Affordability
Written testimony

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It is heartbreaking that Maryland's energy system is the way it is. BGE customers have astronomical bills all while general inflation is prevalent. When does it end? We the people of Maryland need relief! It feels like we are being penalized for using something as foundational as using heating/cooling/electricity. These are basic resources for human beings, yet some people are paying a car note's worth of a BGE bill every month. It's truly ridiculous.

(City Council)

From: Shikera Lovett <shikeralovett@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 5:39 PM
To: Testimony
Cc: Cohen, Zeke (City Council)
Subject: Bill No. L026-0043 March 12, 2026

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Written Testimony for the Baltimore City Council Committee of the Whole

Legislative Oversight Hearing on BGE Business Practices

Bill No. L026-0043

March 12, 2026

My name is Shikera Shelton, and I am a resident of Baltimore City. I am submitting this testimony to speak about the growing burden that Baltimore Gas and Electric bills are placing on working families like mine.

Over the years, my BGE bill has skyrocketed to levels that are simply unaffordable for many residents. At one point, my bill reached \$1,700, which is an impossible amount for a working-class family to pay. Because the bill seemed so high, we had to request that an inspector come out to check the meter. After the inspection, it was discovered that the meter box was not delivering the correct readings for the amount of gas and electricity used in my apartment. After the issue was identified, my bill had to be adjusted down to \$700.

While I am grateful the issue was discovered, it raises serious concerns. How many other families are being overcharged without even realizing it?

Working-class families in Baltimore are already struggling with the high cost of rent, groceries, childcare, and transportation. Now many of us are also facing constantly rising BGE bills, forcing people to choose between paying for electricity or buying food for their families.

As a parent of a neurodivergent child, electricity is not a luxury in my household—it is a necessity. My child cannot go without refrigeration for food or lights in the home, yet the costs continue to rise with little regard for the people who are barely making it.

Baltimore Gas and Electric, better known as BGE, should be ashamed that so many residents are facing these hardships while the company continues to operate as a monopoly.

I am calling on the Baltimore City Council to:

- Conduct stronger audits and oversight of BGE’s billing and metering practices
- Investigate cases where residents have experienced sudden spikes in their utility bills
- Explore solutions, including public power, that would protect Baltimore residents from unfair or inaccurate billing

If these rising costs continue unchecked, Baltimore City risks losing residents who simply cannot afford to live here anymore.

Baltimore families deserve transparency, fairness, and accountability when it comes to essential utilities. I urge the City Council to take this issue seriously and work toward solutions that protect the people of Baltimore.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Shikera Shelton

Baltimore City Resident

(City Council)

From: T Pearce <tiffanypearce19@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 5:11 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: LO26-0043 BGE

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My name is Tiffany Pearce, and I am a resident of Baltimore. I am speaking today about the extremely and often inaccurate utility bills being charged by Baltimore Gas and Electric. Many residents, including myself, have experienced sudden increases in our bills that do not seem to match our actual usage. These charges place a heavy financial burden on families who are already struggling with the rising cost of living. Utility services such as electricity and gas are basic necessities. Because of that, companies like bge have a responsibility to ensure their billing is transparent, accurate, and fair. Excessive fees, unexplained increases, and bills that do not reflect true usage create serious hardship for working people in our community. I am asking for stronger oversight, more accountability, and a thorough review of billing practices to make sure residents are not being unfairly charged. Baltimore families deserve reliable service and honest billing.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I will file written testimony and testify in person.

Andrew Hinz

21217

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I have been robbed blind this year. Keep my house at the same temp yet it continues to rise in cost 300% from when I lived here 2 years ago.

Jack Lombardo

21224

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Forthcoming

Kevin A. Slayton, Sr.

21218

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Hello, my name is Ivana I just moved to Baltimore like a year ago from Newyork, and when I first moved in my house the bill was never no more then 200\$, I work from 9-8 sometimes even close and I don't be rising up my heat until I get home and turn it off before it hits anything later then 10:30pm so for my bill to jump from 200\$ to 600-1,000 is outrageous to me is just me and my boyfriend, there's no way it just jumped like that

Ivana then

21217

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I use less energy than the previous two years. I replaced my hvac unit but the rates and their increases are pushing my bill to \$400 and \$500 in a 1300 sqft townhome

Leonard hilton

20723

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

The rising energy costs to homeowners/individuals and small business consumers is egregious as executives and shareholders are reaping record profits. Household and small business energy users require this public utility to live. It's not optional and BGE has a monopoly.

Corporations and other large businesses are provided with subsidies and other cost offloading incentives not available to the home or small businesses consumers consumer in the face of rising energy costs.

The steep rise in cost is directly related to the change from a public state managed company to one with shareholders to answer to. BGE acts like it's a nonprofit company and in order to survive, it must pass company expenses onto consumers to pay for them. This is not reality as BGE has made record millions and millions in profits year over year. BGE, owned by Exelon, answers to shareholders and not the state of Maryland

Our seniors are suffering. Children are suffering. Families and small businesses are suffering.

The CEO of Exelon and BGE aren't suffering and neither are shareholders.

Energy use has increased due to factors not related to the individual consumer including data centers, increased power needs from corporations and unfettered climate change.

BGE passed costs for upgrading equipment to accommodate data centers and large corporations onto the regular consumer while the company made record profits year over year.

I keep our heat at 62 degrees during the day and 58 at night, we have replacement windows and use window units for air conditioning and have gas radiators for heat.

My heating bill for February is going to be almost \$800. My house is not even warm.

I use to pay around \$ 325-450 per month in the winter which was scandalous then. 2024 doubled my bill without any increase in usage.

Heat and electricity are not an optional service, they are not a luxury and are public utilities.

Nicole Shacochis's Edwards

21214

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

There is no transparency with the various charges

I feel very strongly that the coal and nuclear power plants be made operational

To assist with the charges Maryland residents are experiencing

There are individuals that want to more due to the high cost of living BG&E in this case

And can't afford to

A lot of individual have lived in this state there entire life are established with their community

Neighbors support system physicians etc

I feel this change needs to be instituted immediately to avoid individuals incurring any additional suffering

Thank you

Elizabeth davis

21227

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I am a Professor at Morgan State University. I just moved to Baltimore from Tucson, Arizona in October. I had a 2800 sq foot home in one of the hottest places in the country, and my electric bill for AC in the summer time was less than the BGE bill for heat during the winter in Baltimore. I pay \$450-\$500/month for heat in my <1,000 square foot apartment in Fells Point. The cost is exorbitant and must be reigned in. Please do something city council and Mr. Mayor.

Samuel Campos

21231

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

The hardship placed on me, my family, and my community because of the excessive cost of energy charged by BGE is shameful. My mother has chosen not even to turn her lights on at night to save money - she sits in the dark. Over this brutal cold weather, we have resorted to double-layers and wearing hats and scarves in our home to stay warm. The people of this city are suffering under the boot of this monopoly. The PSC must be pressured to either significantly better-regulate BGE's prices or make electricity a public utility altogether.

Amanda Paige

21318

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

The first utility bill I ever paid myself, when I moved out of my parents' house, was in Baltimore City. I've been taught to consider BGE's rate hikes normal, and just the annoying way of things, but I'm learning from my neighbors that this isn't normal, and it hasn't always been this way. My monthly BGE bill for the rowhome I share with two other college students is equal to my entire monthly paycheck from one of my part-time jobs as a student.

Heating should be affordable. A safe home to live in should be affordable. The City Council must use their power to hold BGE accountable and offer relief to Baltimore residents who are suffering because of BGE's unreasonable prices.

Yara Changyit-Levin

21211

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I am an elderly (aged 79) woman, living alone in a single house in Hamilton. I keep my heat at 70 or below in the winter. My heating bill this past month was a little over \$690.00. I am a retired teacher, living mainly on Social Security and my \$2000 monthly pension. City taxes are going up. The cost of food is going up. People were asking \$100 to shovel the sidewalk this winter. I shoveled it myself, very slowly. (And don't say I could have asked a neighbor. My 88 year old neighbor shoveled his own, also. It took him a week. I finished a day earlier.) How can I continue to afford this?

Patricia Ward

21214

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

My bill shot up over \$200! And my apt is not warm, I keep it at 70 just to keep the frost off and bill down- Im still cold and the bill is ridiculous. Your rates are outrageous, these data centers and hikes are killing us while the company profits hand over fist. People like me work everyday and its maddening to not be able to be comfortable in our own home while paying bills that look like we are.

Kimberly Herring

21061

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Nferguson4life@gmail.com

Nairobi Ramey

BGE bills are high even while on budget billing

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I purchased my home in 2022, and at that time my average BGE bill in the winter was \$185/month. Since then, each winter it has increased with the most expensive in 2024/2025 at \$585. My home is a single family dwelling, I am the only occupant, and my thermostat stays between 64-66. Last month I received a bill of \$386 and received an email today stating that my next projected bill will be approximately \$598. This past month my thermostat has not been above 64 and most times I'm bundled up in my home with heavy clothing and a hat to stay warm. This is unacceptable!

Lisa Jackson

21206

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

The never ending games of delivery fees spiking while BGE executives rake in profits is making home ownership in Maryland a complete gamble. Retrofitting a home and constantly second guessing what's the best option has us spinning our wheels at every turn. To heat our home, even after installing brand new windows this year, to a level safe for our infant son costs \$1000 a month now.

Stephanie Miles

21230

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

While preparing my 2025 taxes- I have discovered BGE bills have almost doubled from Jan 2025 last year. These bills dwarf

other utility bills. It's making being a real property owner less desirable to live in MD

nancy broadfoot

21214

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

It is criminal that the greed of privatized companies controls the basic necessities of the people in Baltimore. To have to decide between freezing during a snowstorm versus being able to get groceries and make rent should not be a decision people have to make. BGE and the Exelon corporation are exploitive, amoral entities that will always prioritize profit before communities.

Sharon Lai

21217

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

My name is Zoe Feldman, I am a resident of Baltimore City, and I'm here today because BGE's ongoing rate increases are not just spreadsheets on a slide — they are real bills hitting real families in Baltimore and throughout Maryland.

I want to speak plainly about what is happening:

Customers are paying dramatically more each year, while BGE's profits have grown substantially.

Rate Increases Have Also Far Outpaced Inflation.

- According to advocates and regulatory data, BGE's gas delivery rates have more than tripled since 2010 and electric delivery rates have roughly doubled over the same period — far faster than general inflation.
- Consumer watchdog groups report gas rates for the average residential BGE customer are about \$500 higher this year just because delivery rates have risen so much, even with the same usage.
- Since 2020, BGE's gas rates have increased roughly 50% and electric rates about 30%, again outpacing inflation substantially over that period.

These increases have hit residents hard — folks who turn down thermostats, install insulation, and otherwise conserve energy still see rising bills because the delivery charges — not just usage — keep climbing.

We've heard BGE argue these rate hikes are necessary to pay for infrastructure upgrades. But what the public doesn't always see is how that correlates with profits:

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- After years of regulatory approval for higher rates, BGE’s profits grew to about \$527 million in 2024.

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Under Maryland’s revenue decoupling and multi-year rate plan system, utilities like BGE are insulated from weather-dependent changes in usage — meaning they recover revenue regardless of customer consumption behaviors.

While this structure aims to stabilize utility finances, in practice it shifts risk onto customers and reduces pressure on the utility to control costs or limit rate increases.

Across Baltimore and Maryland:

- Residents report bills in the hundreds of dollars higher with little change in usage over previous years.
- City leaders, including the Baltimore City Council president, have called on the PSC to pause multi-year rate hikes and reconsider the pace of increases because they are “relentless” and outpacing safety or service improvements.

We urge regulators and policymakers to consider the following:

1. Slow or pause future rate increases until affordability concerns are addressed.
2. Increase transparency about cost drivers and profit margins so ratepayers can clearly see what they are being charged for.
3. Strengthen regulatory oversight to ensure that infrastructure spending prioritizes safety and efficiency — not just profit maximization.

In conclusion, play stupid games, win stupid prizes.

Zoe Feldman

21230

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

My name is Sophie and I am pursuing my master's degree in social work with the aim of advocating for women's health here in Baltimore. But with these ballooning and outlandish costs from BGE makes this increasingly difficult. Should this continue like this, I will be faced with a choice, either I obtain my degree or I leave this city I've learned to love and call home. I've applied to any and all relief programs, I've contacted BGE many times, and have found that their formerly 'free' audit now costs \$100. I can't parse this as anything other than an abusive monopoly. Having a bill in the range of \$600 fails to make any sense if I am keeping the house at 59. Even with rising costs for delivery, data centers that many of us do not want, these bills should not be skyrocketing like this. I pay \$600 a month to shiver in my own home. The people need a voice, we can't let this continue like this without holding BGE accountable. I ask that you take our concerns seriously and take appropriate actions to advocate for us.

Sophie Content

21230

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

We have upgraded our HVAC system to high efficiency system in order to offset rising costs, but our prices keep going up outrageously with only 2 people in our household who leave for work during the day

Miranda Brady

21230

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Good afternoon.

My name is Trina Selden, and I'm here to strongly oppose the proposed Baltimore Gas and Electric rate increases.

These price hikes are not just inconvenient — they are harmful. They hit working families, seniors on fixed incomes, small businesses, and renters the hardest. For many households, energy bills are already a crisis expense. Increasing them further forces people to choose between heat, food, medicine, and rent. No one should have to make that choice in Maryland.

BGE claims these hikes are necessary for infrastructure and reliability. But year after year, customers pay more while outages continue, service complaints rise, and profits remain strong. When a monopoly utility raises rates, customers don't have alternatives — they're trapped. That is exactly why strong regulatory oversight exists, and why these increases should be rejected.

At the same time, BGE's parent company continues to report healthy earnings. Executive compensation rises. Shareholders are protected. But everyday ratepayers are asked to shoulder the burden. That is not shared sacrifice — it's a transfer of wealth from the public to a monopoly.

Maryland has committed to equity, affordability, and climate resilience. Approving excessive rate hikes undermines all three. Clean energy investments must not come at the expense of people being able to keep the lights on today.

I urge the Commission and our legislators to reject these increases, demand real accountability, and require BGE to prioritize affordability, transparency, and reliability — not profit margins.

Marylanders deserve safe, reliable, and affordable energy. These rate hikes fail that test.

Thank you for your time.

Trina Selden

21201

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Given the advestorial political and economic cuts residents are presently navigating, it would behove elected officials to understand that the ordinary citizens in our state, particularly elders living on fixed income are in dire need of elected officials to champion our cause by pushing back on rising cost of utilites.

Nia Redmond

21213

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

My bill was \$590 for December and \$546 for January. This is over double what I typically pay, even in the colder months. This is outrageous!

Anneke Hamrick

21231

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Testimony of Sachet Branch

For BGE Rate Oversight Hearing

2/11/26

Members of the Committee thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Sachet Branch. I am a cook at Johns Hopkins University food service and a leader of UNITE HERE Local 7. I have worked at Hopkins for fifteen years and live in West Baltimore. I support myself, my daughter, my Dad and several members of my extended family. A year or two ago, my typical BGE bill was around \$200 per month. This year it went up to \$400 per month, then I got one bill for \$800. When I called BGE they told me that I had a \$400 credit that I had to pay off. I asked for an explanation, but all I was told was that I had to pay off this “credit”. I didn’t understand it, but I help like I had no option other than to start a payment plan with them to pay off this fee I didn’t understand. Now my monthly bill is even higher.

The University pays me only \$21.19 per hour for the work I do, despite how long I have worked there. Last year, the University gave all workers who make under \$100,000 a 3% raise. For my coworkers and I, this meant only a .40 or .50 cent raise. This doesn’t begin to keep up with how much rent and grocery prices are going up on top of my BGE bill. I work long hours and often pick up overtime shifts to support myself and my young daughter. Even with several extra shifts a week I can’t keep with the increases in our BGE bills. IT hurts to have to choose between spending time with my daughter and being able to keep our bills paid, but it is what I have to do.

I want to thank the Council for bringing attention to this issue and pushing BGE to put Baltimore families above profits.

Sachet Branch

21227

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Ridiculous prices!!! I live in a 2 bedroom apartment and my house was at 70 degrees month round. We opted into every program yo save money BGE offered. Now my price has doubled this month and I'm not sure as to why. Something needs to be done, I no longer wish to have crooked criminals running the power grid!

Ryan Duncan

Ellicott city

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Can we testify virtually?

BGE Testimony on High Utility Bills, Rate Increases

My name is Kate Simms. I am a lifelong resident of Baltimore City and a BGE customer.

I was one of the initial people to raise questions and join communities together with concerns over BGE's Operation Pipeline. Since February of 2023, we have spent 100s of hours doing research, attending meetings, and collaborating with residents throughout Baltimore City. With each layer we uncovered, the concerns grew. And while this started as safety concerns about the exterior installation of gas regulators and BGE's predatory practices, I kept circling back to the bigger picture question of "why is BGE investing billions in infrastructure for a resource we are actively phasing out?"

There is no doubt the current low pressure gas infrastructure throughout the city is in need of some TLC, but the bigger picture question should be why did BGE make the choice Not to repair the current, safer low pressure infrastructure but instead chose to replace the entire infrastructure with a new elevated pressure system. Also, as the state of Maryland is committed to moving away from fossil fuels by 2045, why is BGE investing \$1 millions a day on gas infrastructure?

While BGE continues to claim this new infrastructure is for "safer, more reliable service", BGE has yet to produce justification that demonstrates the current low pressure system is either unsafe or unreliable to customers. Other than one isolated incident in 2022, BGE has shared no examples of customer complaints or issues with the current low pressure system, but yet they continue to be authorized permits to destroy our roads, sidewalks, and force costly unnecessary new infrastructure throughout the city.

This raises the question of who will ultimately benefit from this new system? Will it be the citizens of Baltimore who will benefit, or will the benefits go solely to BGE's profits. Had BGE chosen to repair the current infrastructure, those repair costs would have been an expense to BGE; however, choosing to make this a capital investment, every penny spent on this project, will be passed along to consumers through BGE's current monthly STRIDE surcharge and next through rate increases. As more and more people move away from gas, who will be left to bear the burden of these rising costs?

Considering Maryland's Climate Solutions Now Act, there should be more focus on electrification, not investing in large-scale unnecessary new gas infrastructure. To prioritize this goal, BGE could be collaboratively working with customers on a reasonable timeline towards electrification instead of forcing new gas infrastructure upon customers with little to no warning. Who has considered the effects of the irreparable harm caused to roads and homes, not only during installation, but also when these new lines and regulators become "stranded assets" as fossil fuels are phased out within the next 22 years?

Over these last few years, BGE has demonstrated a total disregard for their customers in Baltimore. Customers have dealt with vague, inaccurate information, work performed on one or two blocks per neighborhood at a time, which has strategically covered a broader area, while simultaneously reducing project visibility, bullying tactics, inequitable and destructive work, and illegal service shut offs.

While the PSC is responsible for governing BGE's rates, they seem to be hugely failing in their mission to "Ensure that rates, terms, and conditions established for public service companies are just, reasonable, and transparent". Residents shouldn't have to choose between buying groceries and keeping warm, while BGE reports a 2024 4th quarter net income of \$175 million. It is time for City and State officials to step in and hold BGE accountable, or at the very least not issue permits for BGE for unnecessary work that is only done to increase their profits!

Kate Simms

21231

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I live in a small one-bedroom apartment and my BGE bills are now over \$1400 a month. The electric portion of my bill has gone up \$400 since last month even though my usage had not increased. Help!!!! The financial pressures are affecting our mental health

AG Sherman

21206

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I want to share my experience with the extremely high BGE utility bills that have become impossible for me to manage. Since last year, my electric and gas bills have increased to the point where they are no longer affordable for my household. Despite doing my best to conserve energy—turning off lights, limiting heating to the point of freezing, and being mindful of daily usage—the monthly charges continue to rise beyond what I can reasonably pay.

Like many people, I already balance mortgage, groceries, transportation, and other essential expenses. When utility bills become this high, it forces difficult choices between necessities. Utilities should not be a luxury; they are essential, a basic right. No family should have to worry about losing these services because the cost has grown out of reach.

The financial stress caused by these bills has been overwhelming. It is discouraging to feel like even when you try to be responsible with your energy use, the cost still continues to increase. I hope that BGE and decision-makers take into account how these rising utility costs are affecting everyday residents and consider solutions that make energy more affordable for the communities they serve.

I am sharing this testimony not only for myself, but for many others who are experiencing the same struggle. Reliable and affordable utilities should be accessible to everyone.

Frederique Dambreville

21212

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Good evening, Council Members. My name is Keion Dorsey, and I'm a Baltimore City homeowner.

I'm here because BGE has been billing me over \$500 a month — in January and February — for a home with no active gas service. The property has been under renovation since September. No gas has been consumed. Yet BGE billed me over \$1,000 in two months on estimated reads alone.

When I contacted BGE, I was told they needed to perform meter maintenance. I agreed. I waited. They never called. They left a door notice confirming the gas was off — then kept sending \$500 bills anyway.

Now BGE claims they can't reach me — after I've been the one chasing them.

But even beyond my situation — look at how BGE structures its rates. On my bills, I pay nearly double in delivery charges compared to what I actually consume. Delivery fees — not usage — are driving these unaffordable bills. That's backwards. Customers are being penalized just for being connected to the system, regardless of how little gas they use.

I'm asking this Council to demand that BGE:

1. Immediately audit and correct estimated bills on properties with no active service
2. Establish enforceable appointment protocols — not notes on a door
3. Create a real, accessible dispute resolution process
4. Investigate and reform the delivery-to-consumption rate imbalance

Baltimore homeowners deserve accountability — not \$500 bills for gas we never used. Thank you.

Keion Dorsey

21215

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

My name is Rita Collins, and I am submitting this statement regarding the growing affordability crisis surrounding the utility bills issued by Baltimore Gas and Electric.

Electricity and heat are not luxury services. They are essential to living safely in our homes. Yet current policies make it unnecessarily difficult for residents experiencing financial hardship to maintain service.

One of the most troubling policies is that customers are only allowed one payment extension every eighteen months. Financial hardship does not occur on an eighteen month schedule. Job loss, medical emergencies, and unexpected financial challenges can happen at any time. Residents should be able to contact BGE and request whatever assistance they need, including extensions or reasonable payment plans, whenever hardship occurs. Restricting assistance to one extension every eighteen months puts residents at unnecessary risk of disconnection even when they are actively trying to pay their balances.

This rigid policy also stands in sharp contrast to how many other monthly service providers operate. Companies such as Verizon home internet services, cellular phone providers, mortgage lenders, and other monthly service companies routinely allow customers to request extensions or temporary payment arrangements when hardship occurs. These providers understand that flexibility helps customers remain connected while working to bring their accounts current. If companies providing internet, cellular service, and mortgages can offer this level of flexibility, essential utilities such as electricity and heat should provide at least the same consideration.

Residents also face additional barriers when trying to get help. If a security deposit was required when service began, customers may be required to pay that deposit before they can receive an extension or payment arrangement. For families already

struggling to keep up with their bill, this creates another obstacle rather than a solution.

Another major concern is the structure of BGE billing. In many cases delivery charges are higher than the actual cost of the gas or electricity used. When the cost to deliver energy exceeds the cost of the energy itself, residents are left questioning the fairness and transparency of the billing system.

Equally troubling is the fact that medical accommodations that once protected vulnerable residents from utility disconnection are no longer being honored as they previously were. Residents with serious medical conditions have submitted documentation showing that electricity is necessary for their health and safety, yet they are still being told their power may be shut off and that they should go to a hotel or another safe place. For many individuals who rely on oxygen equipment, medical devices, or refrigerated medication, relocation may not be possible. Turning off power in these situations puts lives at risk.

If electricity or heat is disconnected, a home can quickly become uninhabitable. Residents should not be forced to choose between survival and keeping their utilities on.

I respectfully urge the Baltimore City Council to advocate for flexible extension policies, fair payment arrangements without deposit barriers, stronger protections for residents with medical needs, and greater transparency regarding delivery charges.

These protections should apply not only to Baltimore but to all Maryland residents, because the challenges surrounding utility affordability affect households across the state.

Maryland residents are not asking for charity.

We are asking for fairness, flexibility, transparency, and accountability in the delivery of essential utility services.

Respectfully submitted

Rita Collins

Rita Collins

21209

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I want to speak honestly about how many residents in Baltimore feel about these meetings and about the continued increases in our BGE bills.

At this point, a lot of people believe that no matter what we say here, nothing is actually going to change. If our voices truly had weight in these decisions, our bills would not already be this high, and rate increases and additional fees would not continue to be approved year after year.

Town halls like this can sometimes feel like a performance rather than a solution. Residents come here, we speak about how these rising costs are affecting our households, our families, and our ability to keep up with basic expenses. We express frustration, we explain our situations, and then we go home and continue paying the same high bills.

In some cases, a small number of people who qualify for assistance may receive a slight reduction in their bills. That help matters for those individuals, but it does not address the larger issue that most residents are facing. The overall cost keeps increasing for the majority of people.

So the question many of us have is simple: how many meetings are we going to have before something actually changes? Because from our perspective, the pattern has been the same for years. Rate increases happen, fees are added, and residents are expected to absorb the cost.

History shows that systems often protect those with the most power and resources, while working and middle-class families carry the financial burden.

Residents are not asking for another meeting where we come and repeat the same concerns. What we are asking for is accountability, transparency, and real action that prevents these constant increases from continuing year after year.

Jessica

21224

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

My bill was \$50 in December. \$150 in January and close to \$600 in February and I'm afraid to open the March bill. I like to alleviate stress. Im a single person. I work long hours during the week and when I'm home, the heat is on for a few hours to knock the chill out. I use wireless lights. So why on Earth is my bill so high. The citizens should not be paying for our usage AND your usage of these grids. A billion dollar company should foot their own bill. Not city residents. Why is there even a meeting on this? The council members know that we are being gouged. Get on the front line and fight!

Cheryl Dill

21217

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Im single and barely home most of my appliances are unplugged. My thermostat has been installed and set at 72o,its automatic and I dont even know how to readjust it. I have submitted te following to BGE and currently waiting a response.

I can not afford this bill.

On 12-29-25 when it was windstorm with a wind advisory was service was terminated for non payment. My house is freezing. I sleep with 2 large comforters on my bed and it is cold in here. My bill is currently 1,811.40\$.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing regarding my most recent BGE statement dated February 26, 2026, and I am requesting a formal review of several issues concerning my account.

First, the statement reflects that my account has been removed from Budget Billing and includes a charge labeled “Budget Bill Cancellation” in the amount of \$654.45. I also noticed that assistance credits were applied within the same section, including:

- OHEP / EUSP Bill Assistance Grant
- Legislative Energy Relief Refund

Because these programs are intended to assist with actual utility service charges and arrears, I am requesting a detailed review to ensure these credits were applied correctly and that the reconciliation amount accurately reflects my account history.

Specifically, I respectfully request:

1. A complete Budget Billing ledger showing how the \$654.45 Budget Bill Cancellation amount was calculated.

2. A detailed explanation of how my MEAP, OHEP/EUSP assistance funds, and legislative energy credits were applied to my account.

3. A review to determine whether the Budget Billing cancellation amount should be reduced or adjusted after the proper application of assistance credits.

Second, I am requesting a service usage review. My household energy use appears higher than expected given my circumstances. I am rarely home during the day, cooking and appliance use are minimal, and most non-essential appliances remain unplugged.

Therefore, I request the following:

- Verification of my electric and gas meter readings
- Confirmation that recent readings were actual readings rather than estimated readings
- A review of my energy usage patterns
- Confirmation that the meter serving my account supplies only my residence

Third, I am formally requesting information regarding opting out of the smart meter program and replacing the smart meter with a non-communicating analog meter. I understand that Maryland Public Service Commission regulations allow customers to request a smart-meter opt-out option, which may include a monthly fee approved by the Commission.

Due to personal health concerns I have experienced since the installation of the smart meter, I am requesting:

- Information regarding the smart meter opt-out program available to BGE customers
- The process for installing a non-communicating or analog meter in place of the current smart meter
- Any applicable fees approved by the Maryland Public Service Commission

Please provide written confirmation and instructions regarding how to proceed with this request.

I appreciate your assistance in reviewing these matters and ensuring my account reflects accurate billing, proper application of assistance credits, and available service options.

Sincerely,

Dawn Denise Pollard

Account Number: 6538642286

Baltimore, MD

I have not received a response back yet.

I cant afford to pay this 1800 bill

But it help if the additional 654.45 is waived.

Dawn Pollard

21229

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

We purchased our home in Baltimore December 21, 2021. Our very first BGE bill was \$1100. We assumed this was a mistake or the seller left us with a back bill on the property. After calls with BGE they confirmed it wasn't a mistake and there was no bill when we opened our account. From there they sent someone to assess the home where we were told not to move the heat past 70 and to keep things unplugged not just off and it would help. Fast forward to 2026. It hasn't helped and we live in constant fear every month. The summer we don't turn the ac on and that keeps the bills down but from October to March we get slammed with bills \$900-\$1600 each month and yes that's the highest and lowest bill during those months. And something that will shock you: we're a family of 2, we leave home at 7am not to return until 6pm AND because of an electrical issue we haven't had electricity to 1/2 the house since 2024. Something we literally can't afford to fix. And i just paid a \$5000 bill with BGE to CLEAR the back balance in February, the current balance is almost \$3000. The BGE bill is higher then the mortgage and we're looking to move. We came from Philadelphia for a work opportunity only to get bled dry on gas and electric. People think it's a joke when I say I WISH my bill was \$600 like they complain about. And NO OTHER city in Maryland, Pennsylvania or Delaware have bills this high. It's terrible and disgusting

Tiona Hawkins

21216

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I spend more time at work than I do at home and my electric bill is upwards of 600\$ that's even with me turning off everything in my circuit breaker except my kitchen appliances. My next step is to relocate from Maryland due to the cost of everything.

Darel payton

21661

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

My name is Whitney and I live in the BGE service area. I want to share how rising gas and electric costs are affecting my family.

Our BGE bill usually goes up in the winter because we use gas to heat our home. We understand that heating costs more during colder months. But compared to last year, our bill is about \$100 higher, which is a big increase for our household.

What concerns me even more is what happened to my mom. She recently bought a home in Baltimore so she could be closer to our family. One reason I encouraged her to move here was because I believed the cost of living would be more manageable than in New York City, which is known for being far more expensive.

The first BGE bill she received after closing was \$499. More than \$300 of that was just for gas delivery charges. She had not even moved into the house yet and the heat was set to only 60 degrees. The bill simply does not make sense.

In New York City, where the cost of living is significantly higher, her gas bill was rarely more than \$200. Now she is facing a bill that is more than double that amount before she has even settled into her new home. Similarly, her bill has also been higher than our own BGE bill and we have a similar square footage home. It simply does not add up.

This has been very stressful for her and has made her worry about whether she can afford the ongoing costs of living here as she gets older. Utility service is essential, and families should not be facing bills that feel this unpredictable and overwhelming.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience.

Whitney Visker

21218

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I live in a row house in Baltimore City, only my husband and I. We work every and not at home. Our current bill is \$2294.83. Current bill \$426.19.

This is unexpected

Lashay

21229

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

As a Baltimore resident, I am deeply concerned about the rising cost of natural gas service and the impact BGE bills are having on households across our city.

In recent months, many residents have experienced dramatic increases in their utility bills. For many people—especially seniors, working families, and those on fixed incomes—these increases are not just inconvenient; they are destabilizing. At a time when rent, groceries, insurance, and healthcare costs are already rising, unpredictable and escalating utility bills push many households closer to financial hardship.

The economic reality many people are facing right now makes this even more concerning. Maryland currently has roughly 25,000 displaced federal workers, and many people—including professionals who have worked steadily for years—are suddenly facing periods of unemployment or financial uncertainty. I am currently between positions myself, and it underscores how quickly rising and unpredictable utility costs can become a real source of financial stress.

When residents contact BGE for assistance, they are often directed to financial assistance programs or nonprofit resources. While those programs are important, many of them are already overwhelmed, difficult to access, or have limited funding. In practice, many residents are being referred to help that is largely unavailable at the moment they need it most.

Natural gas service is not a luxury. For many households it is essential for heating, cooking, and basic daily living—especially during the winter months.

I appreciate the City Council holding this hearing and creating space for residents to share their experiences. Baltimore's leaders have an important role to play in pushing for greater transparency, accountability, and relief for residents facing unsustainable energy costs.

Baltimore residents deserve reliable energy that is also affordable and predictable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Maureen A. Kenney

Baltimore

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

We have getting higher and higher bills from bge that are almost a week of my paycheck is either I eat or pay my bill its not fair the prices are so high but we dont have other option that to pay because bge monopolio there is no other companies that we can get the gas and electric the goverment should do something about bge as soon as possible!

Reyna Villegas

21224

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

BGE has made buying my first house into a nightmare. My partner and I planned, budgeted and found our house. We had bills worked out. Until BGE charged us over \$400 for a 1200 sq ft home. The number has only continued to rise. This month it is over \$600. We cannot afford this. We have done so much preventive work around our house in the first few months and the bill continued to rise.

Looking at the bill itself we see we are being charged more for the delivery of our gas than what our usage costs. Surge pricing has caused our bill to be so insanely high just so we do not freeze in our home and our elderly cats are comfortable. We have tried everything to keep our home warm but the bill climbed every month over a \$100 each time.

This strain has led to multiple breakdowns. Questioning if we were over our heads in home ownership. We feel helpless and angry. We have less and less money and our mental health is wearing thin.

These prices are not fair. These prices are artificially inflated. BGE NEEDS to be reigned in. They are price gouging all of Maryland with their monopoly. They need to be regulated and broken up. It is obvious they only have one goal, drain all of Maryland of all it's money with delivery fees, surge pricing and other junk fees. BGE is crippling Maryland families and our government needs to step up and show them down.

Sydney Rakowski

21227

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

The rising costs have been crippling our small business. In the three years since opening our space in Highlandtown, our BGE costs have tripled with no increase in usage. We've had to change our opening hours, cut staff, and reduce free community events in order to pay BGE and minimize BGE usage whenever possible. It's infuriating that it may be energy bills and not lack of business that kills the local small business communities across Baltimore.

Miranda Nordell

21224

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

As the owner of a small business in Baltimore City, I have observed a significant increase in utility rates over the past few years. This unexpected rise has had a detrimental impact on our business operations, and unfortunately, certain food items are unable to absorb further price increases to continue covering these expenses. We kindly request that you consider implementing a solution to alleviate the financial burden on consumers and reduce the cost of BGE services.

Franchesca Nunez

21224

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

BGE has no program for limited income customers. It charges a single mom on welfare the same rate it charges a surgeon making a million dollars a year. While energy assistance helps, its not always guaranteed. Two years ago OHEP only gave me \$189.00 for the whole season. To add insult to injury BGE charges me monthly on both the gas and electric just to maintain my account when its selling a service which they profit. Imagine the market charging me a for delivery fee on food. I was also told that if change my electric provider I wouldn't qualify for OHEP, intentional Monopoly !

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I bought a home in Canton last year as a first-time homebuyer along with my husband. We love the neighborhood. But ever since we moved in, BGE bills have been simply out of control. In December our bill was over \$500 with the thermostat set at 67, and this month in January, after turning the heat down to 64, the bill stayed within \$50 of that. \$450 to heat the house to a cool 64 degrees. We live in a rowhome with shared walls where the utility costs should be lower, yet we're still paying extortionary prices.

How are these costs sustainable for ANY homeowner? It used to be that winter charges were lower -- now these are significantly higher than my summer bills, which were in the \$300s last summer (which is crazy by itself!). No reprieve from these insane rates that are highway robbery.

I am ashamed that our government approved BGE's predatory rate and delivery charge hikes without seeing the impact on residents. We pay more in "delivery fees" than for the gas we are using. Meanwhile, BGE's profits have soared since Exelon took over. Where is the accountability? Where are the "delivery charges" going? It certainly can't be to maintain infrastructure. Those of us in Canton lost power several times last summer for inexplicable reasons, causing me to throw out hundreds of dollars in food.

We are forced as homeowners to use BGE, therefore to line their pockets, with no accountability nor transparency.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I bought my home in April 2025 thanks to a forgivable loan program offered by the institution where I teach, Coppin State University. I am an associate professor there in the humanities department and had been commuting from southern Maryland to work prior to buying my home. I bought the home with the expectation of saving time and money wasted in commuting so far, and I wanted to invest in the community my school serves. My BGE bill is now equal to more than a quarter of my mortgage, and steadily rising. It has tripled in less than two months despite me not being in the home for weeks at a time during my job's winter break while I was on travel. I can't afford this type of increase. I am already struggling to make ends meet as I transition into homeownership and this expense has widened the gap for me. I am over 50 and supporting my daughter, a college graduate who is also negatively impacted by a crowded job market that makes it challenging to find sustainable employment. I do not want to take on the costs that big utilities and corporations refuse to pay. This is not right. I should not have to choose between groceries and heat and electric for the week. I am someone who holds multiple degrees and has a full-time job, but I have to take on additional side work to afford living right now due to these astronomical bills. I am exhausted and experiencing numerous health fallouts in response to the stress of this situation. This is not right. I will continue to stand with those in my community dedicated to fighting this wrong.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

My BGE as a single woman living alone went from under \$100 to \$191 to \$275 to \$475 dollars monthly for BGE... it is absolutely insane how the cost to heat your home above 65 degrees during frigid temperature will cost you half the cost of your rent. Having a home that is heated is not a luxury but a basic human right. Anyone who disagrees with that needs to seriously seek help.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

The last few winters I have had monthly bge bills that are \$ 1200-1700 per month!!!! Some of these minths we have not turned the heat on or been away for several weeks and the same bills remain. We also are only hearing one floor in our house avg is 60 degrees. We can not pay this amount. They are threatening to shut us off. This is untenable.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I am submitting this formal testimony regarding my BGE account balance, which has now exceeded \$1,000.

At the start of this year, my account had a zero balance. Shortly after service began, BGE added an additional charge of approximately \$300 to my account, stating it was a “start-up fee.” I was advised that this amount would be credited back to my account. However, instead of functioning as a temporary deposit or future credit, it appears to have been added directly to my account balance.

I have not yet made payments on the account, and the combination of monthly utility charges along with this additional \$300 fee has caused my balance to increase rapidly to over \$1,000. This sudden spike has created a financial hardship for me.

I am respectfully requesting:

1. A detailed, itemized breakdown of all charges applied to my account.
2. Written clarification regarding the purpose of the \$300 start-up fee and how/when it is supposed to be credited.
3. A review to determine whether any billing errors or misapplied charges have occurred.
4. Consideration for hardship assistance, deposit review, or removal/reduction of the start-up fee if applicable.
5. A reasonable payment arrangement that will allow me to maintain service while resolving this balance.

As a working individual balancing significant responsibilities, I am committed to resolving this matter. However, I am requesting fairness, transparency, and

assistance in addressing a balance that escalated very quickly from zero to over \$1,000.

I appreciate your time, attention, and prompt review of this matter.

Sincerely, Claudette k.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

As a single mother with two kids I cannot afford a \$700 bge bill. With these frigid temperatures my heat is only on 69 degrees yet these delivery fees are ridiculous. \$350 for just delivery. My gas bill is outrageous and I cannot afford to pay it. Something has to be done.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I am a Baltimore resident, a parent, and a homeowner, and I wanted to share what the recent increases in BGE costs actually look like from inside a real household.

Over the past year, our bills have gone up in a way that has been hard to ignore. One of our electric bills last year for similar usage was around \$178. Recently, that same type of bill came in closer to \$236. During the colder months, our gas bill has been over \$280. Seeing those numbers together in the middle of winter, when heat isn't optional, is stressful.

When I looked closely at my statements, I realized that about 34% of my electric bill is delivery fees, and about 62% of my gas bill is delivery fees. That means more than half of what I'm paying for gas each month isn't even the energy itself — it's the cost to deliver it.

This isn't just about numbers on a statement. It's about the stress families feel when winter comes and we know the bills are going to be high no matter what we do. It's about households trying to stay afloat while costs keep climbing.

I understand the City Council may not directly control BGE's rates, but it means a lot that this issue is being acknowledged. I hope the experiences of families like mine help show just how much these increases are being felt across Baltimore, and that it leads to stronger accountability, transparency, and real relief for residents.

Thank you for giving us the chance to be heard.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Our utilities bill has doubled, and is predicted to double again for the upcoming month's bill. If we keep the house any colder, the temperature drops significantly, especially as like most older buildings in Baltimore, insulation is not perfect. We are as careful as we can be, but just trying to keep the temperatures at a tolerable level for ourselves and our cat is making utilities unaffordable— our next bill will be higher than our rent payment is.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I own a house in Northeast Baltimore. The rate hikes are so high! It's 50% more than I paid 5 years ago in the winter! While I understand inflation, these hikes require more transparency and explanation.

Public Testimony

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Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Hi, I live with two other roommates in the city. We work full time so most of our electricity isn't being used during the day. We try to follow most sustainability and cost friendly tips people give, but our bill keeps going up with nothing to show for it. It feels like the less energy we use the more we pay and for no additional benefit. Our bill went from 180-200 in November to 450 in December and is estimated to be over 600\$ in January and that makes no sense to me. How did we jump that far up with almost no change in our usage besides heating? The building we live in is old like most buildings in this city and the windows leak in air. We covered them with plastic and heavy curtains and it's still cold. We keep the thermostat around 70-72 and it's still cold. Even when we tried to turn it up to 75 briefly it was still cold. Whyre we being charged such an outrageous amount of money for using heat in the winter? That's what the heat is for? so we don't freeze to death in our homes. We kept our thermostat low and suffered hoping our bill would make up for it only to see we're being charged nearly triple of our monthly rate! This is unacceptable and we can't afford those prices especially for a cold near freezing apartment. What's the point of that? These prices go up every year every month simply because they can. Nothings being updated nothings being improved nothings changing except BGEs bottom line. Every year they get hungrier and greedier and push that onto us. They are literally stealing money from us. We are paying them for nothing. Paying them to buy big private jets and go on vacations to warm places while we freeze in our homes hoping to save a little more money for nothing!! I don't understand why the city allows them to price gouge like this. It'll just drive people away. They want the city to be nothing but rich people that can afford to pay these high prices and they want everyone else to make do elsewhere. It's disheartening

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Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

As a retired person, I must make do on a fixed income. The increased BGE bills have resulted in me having to make a decision to fill fewer of my prescription medications and to buy more processed food. I am 82 years old and taking care of my health has declined because I had had to drop medications and healthy meals in order to pay higher utility bills.

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Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I am a widow on a fixed income and I am struggling financially to pay my bge bill vs buying groceries. These increase need to stop

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Dear City Hall

Cc: BGE,

I am a Baltimore City homeowner writing to request assistance and guidance regarding ongoing and extremely high BGE utility bills.

Since last year, I have consistently received BGE bills ranging from \$800 to \$900 per month, with the highest bill reaching nearly \$1,000 for a single month. Unfortunately, the bills have continued to rise rather than stabilize. These costs are unsustainable given my income and household needs.

As a result, I am often forced to make difficult choices between paying my utility bill and covering other essential needs such as food. This has placed a significant financial and emotional strain on my household, especially during colder months when heat is a necessity.

I have attempted to seek assistance through available programs; however, I do not qualify for food assistance, energy benefits or other supplemental benefits because my annual income of approximately \$35,000 places me slightly above the eligibility guidelines. While I am grateful to be employed, my income does not reflect the reality of these utility costs.

I am requesting any support, referrals, or programs that may be available to help address these excessive utility bills, including energy audits, utility assistance programs, or home efficiency resources. I am eager to work collaboratively to find a solution that allows my household to remain safe, warm, and financially stable.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate any assistance or guidance you can provide.

Sincerely,

Baltimore City Homeowner

Public Testimony

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Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Bge no longer feels like a utility bill it feels like I'm paying a second rent. My bge bill was \$900 which is half of my rent. I can not afford to keep paying these prices. People cannot afford to pay these prices. I am making life decisions fees my family or pay bge

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

We are drowning in these BGE bills. My last bill was \$500 for a 1250sqft home. My neighbors sister pays one fifth of the price for the same sized row home in Philadelphia. The fact that BGE continues to raises the costs for the consumers while they are making record breaking profits is abhorrent. We need relief or we must move out of Maryland.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

BGE is price gouging, the steady increases I've been seeing in my modest energy usage is concerning. Please consider lowering your prices to be more affordable for the average American.

Public Testimony

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Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

The increase in rates for electric and gas has been a huge burden to me and my family particularly during a time of extreme temperatures. We are middle class earners and still had to make a decision whether or not we should turn on/up our heat during the extreme cold because we weren't sure if we could afford the bill that would accompany it. Residents shouldn't have to decide between staying warm in the winter or saving money to pay for groceries and other bills.

Public Testimony

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Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I'm extremely frustrated with BGE's outrageous delivery charges. The delivery fee makes up about 75–80% of my bill and it's actually more than the cost of the energy I use. That does not make sense.

I work hard and earn a decent salary, yet I'm struggling to keep up with these bills. I don't qualify for public assistance, and I shouldn't have to apply for it just to afford basic utilities. No one should feel this much pressure over keeping their lights and heat on.

Every time I receive my bill, it feels like I'm paying a second mortgage. On top of that, BGE added a \$700 deposit fee to my account this year, which only made things worse.

This needs to be addressed. These delivery charges are too high, and something has to change. I never experienced bills like this when I lived in New York, and it's disappointing that Maryland residents are dealing with costs this extreme.

Enough is enough

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Attempts at going solar have stalled and are basically impossible. The rates for suppliers and for delivery are astronomical. I'm not sure if data centers play a role here, but this is untenable. Just today to have cash on hand to pay my American Express bill I had to put my \$701 bill on my Amex. That's a budget billing figure. The real cost was over \$1500 for gas and \$220 for electric. Their assistance programs are a joke. And the full irony is Amex declined a purchase today for my commuter rail tickets to GET TO WORK!!! Not sure we're actually a middle class income any more, but we get treated like we're wealthy when we need a leg up. That's to say we earn too much for help, but yet we're struggling month to month. We have a special needs son and I'm truly concerned that these hikes don't seem to have a bottom. What happens when you cut us all off for non payment?

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

MY BGE BILL IS EXTREMELY HIGH AND I'M ON A FIXED INCOME AND ABSOLUTELY CAN NOT AFFORD THESE BILLS.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I am a senior citizen who resides in Baltimore city. I am on a fixed income as I am now retired. I have been greatly impacted by BGE's rate hikes. Even though BGE tells the customer that they can apply for assistance, I have received little or nothing that really helps to decrease my bill amount. Every month I am on pins and needles because at one point the bills were so high that it was taking half of my pension each month. This left me with little to pay for the rest of my bills. I actually sent in an application for energy assistance and I was told that it was never received. At this point, the citizens like myself need to know what action can be done and when in order to reduce the high energy bills.

Public Testimony

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Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I have 2 businesses and I rent the home I live in. In my home over the last year the BGE bill has shot up from a couple hundred dollars to averaging around \$1000 which is insane, that's half my rent. My two businesses are even worse between the two I just got hit with a \$3000 bill and let me explain, they're both tattoo shops and use very little electricity everything is battery powered we use led lamps instead of the overhead lights, one shop only has one person in it right now and it's extremely small and the artist keeps it pretty cold in there, there's absolutely no reason that's a \$1500 bge bill. This is ruining the lives of so many people, literally no one can afford this. This is ruining my business, my normal life. Type BGE bill anywhere online and you'll find so many people being destroyed by this.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

My BGE bill has been steadily increasing. It's over \$600 monthly! That's a significant chunk out of my monthly bills. I was comfortable paying my bill before the rising cost. How far will they be allowed to go? We need some kind of cap on how much they are allowed to increase, and how often. Thank you.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

Our church began leasing a property in May of 2024. Since relocating our church to our current location in South Baltimore, we have experienced a significant spike in our gas bill; specifically, between November and March (yearly). During the winter months, our gas bill has gone from a little over \$300 to over \$2000, monthly. At best, we gather in our building twice per week for a maximum of 8 hours total. Weekly meetings, Bible study and prayer sessions are all held virtually. On a monthly basis, our space is only used for Sunday worship services and occasional rehearsals throughout the month (3-4 per month). There is hardly any use of the building and its utilities, and we have yet to receive an adequate explanation as to why our monthly bill for the last few months has doubled each month. We have had both meters assessed by a BGE technician, and there were no detections of any misreading. While we understand that there is far more use of the heating system during the winter months, we are requesting further investigation of the significant increase in monthly billing.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

My name is Shakia Colbert, and I am a Maryland resident submitting testimony regarding the continued rate increases from Baltimore Gas and Electric.

Recently, I received an electricity bill for over \$400 for a household of only two people. We are rarely home during the day due to work schedules. I keep my thermostat at 70 degrees, and only increase it to 73 degrees when it is extremely cold. Overnight, I lower the temperature to conserve energy.

Despite making conscious efforts to reduce energy usage, my bill continues to rise year after year. Over time, it feels like BGE has nearly tripled its prices, and the cost is becoming unaffordable for many households like mine.

What is even more concerning is that the delivery charges are higher than the actual energy supply charges. As a consumer, it is frustrating to see that a large portion of my bill is not tied to how much electricity I actually use.

My electricity bill is now higher than my car payment, which is alarming. Because of these rising costs, I am forced to make difficult financial choices. For example, I sometimes have to reconsider purchasing healthy groceries just to ensure my utility bill can be paid. If I cannot afford healthy food, it could negatively affect my health, my energy levels, and ultimately my ability to work and support myself.

The increasing cost of electricity is not just a financial burden—it is mentally and emotionally exhausting. Watching the bill climb higher and higher each month is discouraging, especially knowing that consumers have no alternative provider for delivery services.

Unfortunately, electricity is not optional. It is a basic necessity. Yet it feels like residents are being asked to absorb unlimited increases without sufficient accountability or relief.

I urge the Maryland Public Service Commission to carefully review and reconsider additional rate increases and to hold Baltimore Gas and Electric accountable for the growing financial burden placed on Maryland residents.

Families should not have to choose between keeping the lights on and affording groceries.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Shakia Colbert

Maryland Resident

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

No one should have to pay over \$1,000 in a month for electric. I have a person with lung problems in my home so I don't have a choice heat has to be between 68 and 70 to keep him healthy. I had to get a loan for electric this year. It's like making another mortgage payment. This never happened when Hogan was in office. I received a MD tax refund and had to give it all back for electric. I love and grew up in Maryland. But do not think I can afford to retire here paying close to \$3,000 every winter for electric. I'm getting close to retirement age. Some of my friends have move out of state. My daughter lives in NM and can put her heat on 80 all winter and pay under \$100 per month. Something has gone wrong in the last two years in Maryland.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I am literally having to pick between paying BGE, rent, car insurance and food. It's really hard for the average person who is working everyday to manage these high bills. Your BGE bill should never be as high as your rent or mortgage. Last month I paid \$650 on my bill, this month my bill is still over \$2000. Trying to catch up on your BGE bill means another important bill is going to have to wait. Budget billing and the small grants do not help. People need realistic solutions because turn off notices are real.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

BGE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY UNAFFORDABLE FOR MONTHS. MY BILL HASNT BEEN LESS THAN \$500 IN A YEAR. IM FORCED BETWEEN PAYING BGE OR GOING TO THE MARKET. I CANT CONTINUE TO PAYING THIS AMOUNT. SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

As a business owner it has been very difficult to pay for BGE bills. I even requested a plan payment because the bills are yo high.

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

In my job, I support a commercial corridor in Southeast Baltimore. Dozens of business owners have shared with me that their BGE costs have doubled since last year--increases that are costing them thousands of dollars more each month. We know many global factors are contributing to business revenue drops (down 50-80% for many independent businesses). At a minimum, our own utility company shouldn't be adding to this burden. Please find a way to lower the rates to a more manageable level for the people of Baltimore and across Maryland--and especially for independent and local businesses!

Public Testimony

LO26-0043

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) Gas Safety & Affordability

I am a Baltimore resident and small business owner in zip code 21224. The recent increases in BGE bills are affecting not only households but also small businesses like mine. Utilities are a necessary part of operating a business, and when energy costs rise significantly it directly impacts our ability to keep our doors open, serve our customers, and maintain stable pricing.

Small businesses in Baltimore are already dealing with rising costs for rent, supplies, and other operating expenses. When utility bills increase unpredictably, it adds another financial burden that many local businesses cannot easily absorb.

Reliable and affordable energy is essential for both residents and the small businesses that support our neighborhoods. I hope the City Council continues to advocate for transparency, accountability, and solutions that keep energy costs fair and manageable for the people and businesses that make up our city.
