

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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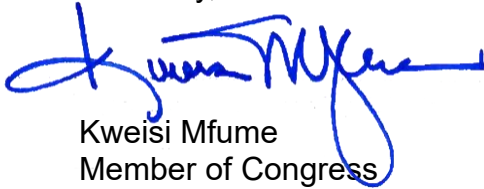
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Generation Energy Act and the Maryland Public Service Commission's recent halving of BGE's attempted reconciliation rate increase, create hope that the era of blank checks has ended. I urge the Maryland Public Service Commission to continue standing 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/>