



January 31, 2024

To: Maryland Public Service Commission

From : Maryland Energy Advocates Coalition

Subject: PC 59 Low Income Rate Design Plan Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to add our coalition's ideas, historical perspective, expertise and market research regarding a first-ever low-income rate plan for Maryland's low income account holders. We took the task seriously.

Our coalition members are: AARP Maryland, Abell Foundation, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, IEER, Climate Access Fund, National Consumer Law Center, GEDCO, Cancer Support Foundation, and many partner organizations.

We have one goal: help Maryland's large low-income segment achieve energy affordability. And, it's needed. Energy burdens are high, over 13% for this target market which is around 500,000 accounts. In 2023, about 100,000 accounts were terminated - the highest ever. And, this sets the stage before we transition to a cleaner economy, which is presumed to cost rate payers more.

We look forward to working collaboratively with the PSC, OPC, utilities, DHS and all groups to launch an effective, low income rate with a decent participation rate.

Thank you,

Laurel Peltier

Laurel Peltier
Executive Director (Chair)
Maryland Energy Advocates' Coalition
greenlaurel7@comcast.net