

HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE  
LETTER OF INFORMATION  
VISTRA**House Economic Matters Committee  
January 29, 2021**

Vistra respectfully submits this resource testimony **relating to HB 606– Electricity and Gas – Limited Income Mechanisms.**

Vistra is a premier, integrated, Fortune 275 energy company with retail operations in Maryland. Vistra combines an innovative, customer-centric approach to retail with safe, reliable, diverse, and efficient power generation.<sup>1</sup>

Vistra believes that strong customer protections and assistance programs are vital to a functioning competitive market and applauds the legislature’s effort to examine the issue of assistance for limited income customers. Vistra believes our experience in assisting this class of customers in other markets can inform the current conversation and submits this testimony as a resource to further that discussion.

Through our TXU Energy retail brand in Texas, Vistra provides one of the largest privately funded customer energy assistance programs in the nation. For over 35 years, customers of TXU Energy have been able to take advantage of one-time bill payment assistance through the TXU Energy Aid<sup>SM</sup> program (fact sheet attached). This assistance is in addition to any aid customers can receive through state, federal and other programs.

Vistra funds four million dollars into the TXU Energy Aid program for one-time assistance to customers. All of those monies are supplied by Vistra without rate base recovery. Vistra also serves as a catalyst for additional donations. In addition to the four million dollars provided by Vistra, there’s approximately \$600,000 that is also donated, of which approximately \$300,000 is from Vistra employee donations through our annual United Way/Energy Aid campaign. The remaining donations come from TXU Energy customers via bill donations and other donations/gifts.

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<sup>1</sup> The company brings its products and services to market in 20 states and the District of Columbia, including six of the seven competitive wholesale markets in the U.S. and markets in Canada and Japan, as well. Serving nearly 5 million residential, commercial, and industrial retail customers with electricity and natural gas, Vistra is the largest competitive residential electricity provider in the country and offers over 50 renewable energy plans. The company is also the largest competitive power generator in the U.S. with a capacity of approximately 39,000 megawatts powered by a diverse portfolio, including natural gas, nuclear, solar, and battery energy storage facilities. In addition, the company is a large purchaser of wind power. The company is currently constructing a 400-MW/1,600-MWh battery energy storage system in Moss Landing, California, which will be the largest of its kind in the world when it comes online.

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As a participant in the electric retail competitive market in Maryland, Vistra hopes to be able to bring our TXU Energy Aid program to Maryland and customize it for the unique needs of the state, market and customers located here. Vistra is a passionate advocate for the competitive market as a solution to provide Marylanders' electric service that best works for their needs - where Maryland consumers can be empowered to shop and customize their energy supply via retail energy supply offerings. Vistra looks forward to partnering with the Maryland legislature, state agencies and other stakeholders to ensure that all Maryland consumers can receive the benefits of the competitive market balanced with the appropriate customer protections and assistance programs that any competitive energy market needs to be effective.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our experience assisting limited income customers to inform the debate on HB 606 and Vistra welcomes the opportunity to continue to act as a resource for the committee and the legislature on this issue.

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