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March 9, 2021

To: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Chair, Finance Committee

From: Karen S. Straughn  
Consumer Protection Division

Re: Senate Bill 856 – Electric Companies – Billing Information (SUPPORT)

The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General submits the following written testimony in support of Senate Bill 856 submitted by Senator Stephen S. Hershey, Jr. This bill requires an electric company to make at least the preceding 12 months of usage and billing information available to its customers in the manner requested.

Deregulation of electricity provides consumers with a wide variety of suppliers from which they can obtain their electricity. However, without a clear understanding of the rates and usage information over a period of time, it may be difficult for a consumer to determine if the plan they have chosen is providing them with the optimal benefit. If a variable rate plan is utilized, only by comparing these rates over a period of time, can a consumer determine how these rates are impacting his or her overall costs. This bill would require an electric company to be transparent, and permit consumers to review the cost over a period of time to determine if the current plan is meeting their needs or if an alternate plan should be considered.

For these reasons, we ask that the Finance Committee return a favorable report on this bill.

cc: The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.  
Members, Finance Committee