



Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association  
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TO: House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association

DATE: February 16, 2022

RE: **OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 800** – Public Safety – Emergency Management – Price Gouging Consumer Protections

On behalf of Maryland’s convenience stores and energy distributors, MAPDA offers its opposition to HB800 – legislation that establishes essential goods and services in a declared state of emergency and, generally, the highest price at which they may be sold during it.

House Bill 800 would tie the hands of future governors on how to react in a declared state of emergency (SOE). The governor needs the flexibility to issue executive orders in response to a declared SOE.

As we saw with the COVID-19 crisis, the governor issued an executive order guarding against excessive pricing on certain products. HB800 goes too far by codifying what constitutes an essential good and service for future states of emergency. A future emergency may not impact fuel or energy sources but HB800 establishes that it does. That would unnecessarily impact the operations of businesses in these affected industries.

For these reasons, MAPDA opposes HB800 and **requests an unfavorable committee report.**

**Feeding and fueling the economy through gas, coffee, food, heating oil and propane.**

MAPDA is an association of convenience stores and energy distributors in Maryland, Delaware & the District of Columbia.