



Retail Energy Supply Association

RETAIL ENERGY SUPPLY ASSOCIATION URGES POLICY-MAKERS TO OPPOSE RE-REGULATION

STATEMENT BY LEAH GIBBONS, MARYLAND STATE CHAIR, RESA

Annapolis, MD (March 2, 2009) – *“In a campaign promise three years ago, Martin O’Malley told Marylanders he would lower their utility bills if he became governor. Today, in an attempt to make good on that promise, the governor proposed to re-regulate the electric industry in Maryland ending energy competition and potentially spurring new Maryland job losses. Ironically, re-regulating Maryland’s electricity market will NOT lower anyone’s electricity bill today. In fact, it will ensure that Maryland customers will be forced to bear all new investment risks associated with the utilities building new generation.*

RESA believes re-regulation is the wrong answer to the energy challenges Maryland faces. Instead, the Governor should work with the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) and industry to get the competitive electricity market working for Maryland’s residential customers. The Maryland PSC needs to establish fair rules and create a competitive market for residential customers so that they can have the same shopping and choice benefits that larger commercial and industrial customers currently enjoy in Maryland. Even the very state government that Governor O’Malley leads currently enjoys the benefits of competition and choice.

If the Governor really wants to help Maryland customers, the better approach is to direct the PSC to offer rate relief to help deal with currently high electric bills. Re-regulating the industry will not bring any relief today and will instead bring new and unnecessary costs. During this economic crunch, now is not the time to implement new generation policies or regulations that will put retail suppliers out of business, costing Maryland jobs, and abolishing the now available lower priced and flexible energy plans to Maryland businesses which could lead those businesses to cut even more jobs.

If Maryland’s political leaders truly want to make things better for energy ratepayers they should support competition, innovation, conservation and effective, meaningful, fair and balanced regulatory solutions that can foster competition and place downward pressure on prices.”

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About RESA

The Retail Energy Supply Association is a broad and diverse group of 11 retail energy suppliers who share the common vision that competitive retail energy markets deliver a more efficient, customer-oriented outcome than regulated utility structure. RESA members are devoted to working with all stakeholders to promote vibrant and sustainable competitive retail energy markets for residential, commercial and industrial consumers. For more information visit www.resausa.org.

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