

# Are Maryland Consumers Benefiting from Competitive Energy Markets?

# KNOW THE FACTS

RESA STRONGLY URGES THAT ANY LEGISLATIVE OR REGULATORY CHANGES TO THE CURRENT  
MARKET BE BASED ON SOUND & UNBIASED REVIEW OF RETAIL CHOICE



## BOTTOMLINE

Misleading reports are published in Maryland in an effort to abolish retail energy choice, as opposed to working together to improve the market

### TIMELINE

#### NOVEMBER 2018

Maryland Office of People's Counsel (OPC) Report "Maryland's Residential Electric and Gas Supply Markets: Where Do We Go from Here?" is issued.

#### DECEMBER 2018

Maryland's Dysfunctional Residential Third-Party Energy Supply Market: An Assessment of Costs and Policies (Abell Report) is released.

#### JANUARY 2019

*Retail Energy Supply Association reviews Maryland's OPC report and provides comments:*

- The OPC Report misleads readers on the state of Maryland's retail energy market by:
  - omitting critical information
  - providing fragmented or partial data
  - employing questionable analytical tactics paramount to comparing information to
- Omits critical information regarding the Maryland utility Price to Compare (PTC)
- Disregards reasons why customers choose retail service
- Misinforms on the differences between PTC prices and retail supplier offers
- Provides a false comparison between variable tariff prices and 12-month fixed supplier prices
- Understates electric PTC prices thereby inflating PTC benefits
- Provides misleading information on the number of retail offers falling below the PTC
- Provides a false derivation of consumer loss

#### JANUARY 2019

*RESA's analysis of the Abell Report is as follows:*

- Makes unsubstantiated and invalid claims that residential customers overpay when purchasing retail power and natural gas from third party suppliers
- Provides frivolous claims and no credible evidence that residential customers, low income or otherwise, overpay for retail service
- Mendacious results from report are presented as absolute truths with no further analysis needed to verify claims
- Presumes retail suppliers are gouging millions of dollars from low income customers causing undue stress
- Inexplicable claim that Purchase of Receivables (POR) causes retail energy suppliers to raise their prices
- Assumes Maryland residential customers are too inept to make their own decisions and conclude that retail choice should be taken away from residential customers because they are incapable of acting in their own best interest