



February 19, 2026

The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore:

The Fuel Fund of Maryland writes to express deep concern about the escalating energy challenges facing families across our state. As energy costs continue to rise and pressures on regional power supply grow, more Maryland families are confronting difficult financial realities that threaten their safety, health, and housing stability.

For many families, energy is far more than a monthly expense, it is essential to maintaining quality of life. Reliable heat and cooling, refrigeration for food and medications, and the ability to power critical medical devices are fundamental to well-being. Yet today, too many families are forced to make difficult choices between keeping their homes safe and connected as well as meeting other basic needs such as food, healthcare, and childcare.

The urgency of this challenge is evident in the widening gap between rising community need and our program's designed capacity. Under our funding model, Fuel Fund can accept only about 300 applications per week: 1,200 per month and roughly 12,000 per year and these application slots can fill in less than 90 minutes. As affordability declines and energy costs outpace household incomes, more families now require assistance simply to maintain basic service. Although we provide approximately \$1 million in financial grants each year made possible through the generosity of donors, even many long-time supporters are now facing their own energy challenges. As a result, charitable dollars cannot keep pace with the accelerating demand. There is no waitlist because the Fuel Fund is already operating at full capacity under its responsible funding model. This reflects a broader statewide affordability crisis that charitable programs alone cannot resolve and underscores the need for coordinated policy-driven solutions to keep Maryland households safely connected. Maryland's increasing reliance on out-of-state power generation, combined with tightening regional supply, contributes to higher and less predictable energy prices. These dynamics disproportionately impact customers with the least financial flexibility while accelerating demand on assistance programs that are already operating near capacity.

Reliability remains equally critical. Energy disruptions during periods of extreme heat or cold present immediate safety risks — particularly for those with critical medical needs, older adults, and families with children. During these events, the Fuel Fund often serves as a lifeline to keep households connected.

As Maryland continues to confront rising energy costs and the growing strain on household budgets, we urge state leaders to recognize the increasing affordability pressures on families statewide in long-term energy decisions. Advancing meaningful affordability solutions, strengthening reliability, and supporting programs that prevent harmful shutoffs will be essential to protecting the well-being of communities statewide.

For 44 years, the Fuel Fund of Maryland has stood alongside BGE and our public partners to help keep families safely connected. We remain fully committed to collaborating with state leadership, industry partners, and community stakeholders to craft practical, people-focused solutions that stabilize families and promote long-term resilience. We welcome the opportunity to share additional data, insights, and on-the-ground perspectives to support this important work.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Maryland's families and communities.

Sincerely,

Debbie Brown

Debbie Brown

Executive Director

Fuel Fund of Maryland

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The following statement is presented exactly as written by the applicant, with no grammatical or editorial changes, to preserve the authenticity of their experience.

From a first-time Fuel Fund grant applicant/recipient (January 2026):

"It is with gratitude to all those who donate to Fuel Fund that I am writing this survey, which I normally would not do as I am a very private person. I pay in winter months (Dec. -March) between \$6,000 - \$8,000 for BGE services. Quite a ridiculous amount of fees which take away from family time, purchasing things for my children's hobbies, further education, vacation time, and much more. With the increasing cost, each donation Fuel Fund receives has blessed my financial burden to do more for my family. I have 3 children in college and four still in school. I am most grateful for this program which helps extend far beyond BGE payments. It means so much more to us whom receive your support. Things like college books, family outings, quality time with family without the stress of power outages, and the stress of trying to provide for unfair and over-the-top electric and gas fees. Your support provides financial and mental relief in our world of very trying times. We are a hard working family and by no means love hand outs. However, our bill always seems unjustifiable. Nonetheless, we do our best and are most grateful for your compassion to give to those in need when faced with coming up short. May your heartfelt kindness extend 100 fold and find you in good health and peace to you and yours. Thank you so kindly".