

allow Constellation to sell power to BGE at a higher cost, even if there is lower cost power available from another company. These anti-consumer provisions will force BGE customers to pay increased rates that serve to benefit BGE and Constellation, with no benefit of any kind for the customer.

We can work together to craft a more balanced, pro-consumer solution. Only days ago we negotiated an historic sexual predator bill to better protect our children. Presently, the General Assembly continues in the Special Session that I convened last week. Accordingly, I request the Members return to work immediately on an alternative solution that will prove more consumer friendly and will not discriminate against BGE customers. Specifically, the bill should contain:

- \* consumer choice for BGE ratepayers;
- \* no interest for BGE ratepayers;
- \* additional concessions from the electric companies; and
- \* no replacement of the People's Counsel.

Further, while I remain willing to examine issues relating to the appointment and tenure of the PSC that are consistent with the Maryland Constitution and help promote regulatory certainty, there should be no wholesale elimination of all of the commissioners.

For the foregoing reasons, I have decided to veto Senate Bill 1. In doing so, I do not reject the central purpose of the legislation. To the contrary, I support such legislation so long as consumers who need rate relief are given the best relief possible, while those who wish to decline are not forced to participate in such a plan. I look forward to working with you and the members of the General Assembly to establish such a plan. I believe that with good faith efforts we can accomplish this goal by the end of next week with the result that the people of the State will be the real winners.

Very truly yours,  
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor

### Senate Bill No. 1

AN ACT concerning

#### **Public Service Commission - Electric Industry Restructuring**

FOR the purpose of altering the criteria for appointment to the Public Service Commission; altering the method of appointment of the People's Counsel and providing a term of office for the People's Counsel; providing for the extension of the obligation to provide standard offer service to certain electric customers; requiring the Commission to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the status of standard offer service on certain dates; requiring the Commission to adopt certain regulations concerning the wholesale procurement of electricity for standard offer service to certain customers; altering certain findings and terms for certain extended service; requiring certain electric