

OF TITLES 13 AND 14 OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE OR ANY OTHER APPLICABLE STATE LAW OR REGULATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF GAS SUPPLIERS; OR

(2) EXEMPT GAS COMPANIES AND GAS SUPPLIERS FROM OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATE OR FEDERAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ANTITRUST LAWS.

(B) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSULT WITH THE CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BEFORE ADOPTING REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO PROTECT CONSUMERS OF GAS SUPPLY AND GAS SUPPLY SERVICES.

(C) THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL HAS THE SAME AUTHORITY IN LICENSING, COMPLAINT, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEEDINGS AS THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL HAS UNDER SUBTITLE 5 OF THIS TITLE AND TITLE 2 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(D) IN CONNECTION WITH A CONSUMER COMPLAINT OR COMMISSION INVESTIGATION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, A GAS SUPPLIER SHALL PROVIDE TO THE COMMISSION ACCESS TO ANY ACCOUNTS, BOOKS, PAPERS, AND DOCUMENTS THAT THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS NECESSARY TO RESOLVE A MATTER IN DISPUTE.

7-606.

THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS OR ADOPT ORDERS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBTITLE THAT IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY AND IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

7-607.

THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE REFERRED TO AS THE "NATURAL GAS SUPPLIER LICENSING AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2000".

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That gas suppliers doing business in the State before the effective date of this Act shall be required to obtain a license from the Commission under Title 7, Subtitle 6 of the Public Utility Companies Article, as enacted by this Act, on or before July 1, 2001.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That contracts between gas suppliers and customers entered into before the effective date of this Act are not subject to orders or regulations adopted by the Commission under § 7-604 of the Public Utility Companies Article, as enacted by this Act.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED; That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

May 18, 2000

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. President: