

**Committee: Environment and Transportation**  
**Testimony on: HB0768-Montgomery County Community**  
**Choice Energy Pilot Program**

**Organization: Environmental Justice Ministry**  
**Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church**

**Submitting: Nanci Wilkinson, Co-Chair**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: February 18, 2020**

**Environmental Justice Ministry, Cedar Lane Unitarian  
Universalist Church Testimony on Community Choice  
Energy (CCE) Pilot Bill for Montgomery County**

The Environmental Justice Ministry of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church strongly supports this pilot bill for Community Choice Energy. CCE allows local governments as an aggregator or entity to buy energy on behalf of all residents and businesses. The great advantage to localities in the CCE “opt out” program is the democratically elected government’s ability to determine the source of energy and to negotiate for lower rates. Individuals and businesses may choose to not participate and continue with the utility of their choice.

Advantages of this legislation from the experience of the nine states that currently have it include:

- A more rapid greenhouse gas reduction plan than any other single action as analyzed by the Ann Arbor, Michigan

**A-2 Zero Climate Plan (35.8% required to reach a net zero 2030 target.)**

- A much higher percentage of residents and businesses move that will move more quickly to renewable energy sources
- A less expensive energy program that will help lower income communities afford renewables more easily

This legislation supports the Unitarian Universalist principles of the inherent worth and dignity of every person and our faith's respect for the independent web of all existence. Both principles are significant to all people as we move forward in this Climate emergency to a more equitable and just world. We have less than 10 years to move toward a more sustainable climate.