

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB0768-Montgomery County-Community Choice Energy Pilot Program

Organization: The Climate Mobilization, Montgomery County Chapter

Submitting: Nanci Wilkinson

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 18, 2021

**TCM MoCo Testimony on Community Choice Energy (CCE)
Pilot Bill for Montgomery County**

The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County chapter strongly supports the Community Choice Energy legislation that Delegate Lorig Charkoudian introduced in the 2021 Maryland legislature as a pilot for Montgomery County. This should be a top priority for the Montgomery County state delegation and for the General Assembly.

Along with Covid related legislation Climate must be the highest priority for Montgomery County in 2021 and in the coming years. The Climate crisis is an emergency and each year delayed action makes it more likely that climate will not be able to be controlled with unthinkable consequences for the county, the nation and the planet.

And by far the most consequential and sweeping action the legislature could take would be to allow for the aggregation of renewable energy purchases by the county.

CCE allows local governments as an aggregator or entity to buy energy on behalf of all residents and businesses. The great advantage to localities that participate in the CCE "opt out" programs is the democratically elected government's ability to determine the source of energy and to negotiate for lower rates. The experience of some nine states currently using this type of energy purchase has been positive with faster progress towards cleaner renewable energy at less expense for the user.

There is freedom of choice for Individuals and businesses who may choose to not use CCE and continue with the utility of their choice. One of the advantages of the program among those municipalities using Community Choice Energy is in the increase of the use of renewables such as solar and wind power.

In Ann Arbor Michigan, the A2Climate Plan Summary noted that CCE would account for 35.8% of the greenhouse gas reductions required to reach a net zero 2030 target. No other single action analyzed as part of their planning process resulted in a greenhouse reduction anywhere near the magnitude of that provided by CCE.

There is no reason to believe that CCE would have any less of an impact here in Montgomery county as it attempts to meet its extraordinarily challenging climate goals of 80 percent reduction by 2027 and 100 percent reduction by 2035.

Therefore CCE must be the top county priority for legislative action in 2021.

TCM Model Testimony on Community Choice Energy (CCE)
Pilot Bill for Montgomery County

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