

## **Municipally Owned Utilities**

### **Testimony for Senate Bill 143**

#### **Electricity – Net Energy Metering – Accrual of Net Excess Generation (Net Metering Flexibility Act)**

#### **Position: Favorable with Amendment**

Dear Chairman Feldman and the Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of the Municipally owned utilities (“Munis”) in Maryland, comprised of the towns of Easton, Hagerstown, Williamsport, Berlin, and Thurmont. Senate Bill 143 authorizes an eligible customer-generator under the State’s net metering law to accrue net excess generation for an indefinite period, instead of only for a 12-month period. It also provides that any accrued excess generation is forfeited upon closure of the customer account. The existing 12-month accrual period for net excess generation is altered for to end in August instead of April.

The Munis provide electricity for less than 1% of the population in Maryland. In turn, only a fraction of our customers elect to use net metering. For example, the Town of Easton has over 10,000 customers, 58 of which use net metering. To require our members to offer the ability to accrue net excess for an indefinite period would require us to add a separate accounting system for an even smaller population of people. The costs associated with creating such a system would have to be socialized over our already small population of customers.

Additionally, we are not only the utility for electricity. The Munis also provide internet, cable, water, and sewer services to residents within their service footprints. Under current law, if a net metering customer has net excess generation at the end of the year, we are able to apply that credit to another service of the customer’s choosing.

Finally, we believe that our customers would be very upset if they discovered any accrued excess generation is forfeited upon closure of the account. Applying net excess on an annual basis prevents that scenario from happening to our customers.

Therefore, we ask the indefinite period option for net metering customers not be applicable to Municipal Electric Utilities

Sincerely,  
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