

MCCC Letter.pdf

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Position: FAV

FREDERICK H. HOOVER, JR.
CHAIR

MICHAEL T. RICHARD
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BONNIE A. SUCHMAN



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

January 4, 2024

Chair Brian Feldman
Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Feldman,

The mission of the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) is to ensure safe, reliable and economic public utility service to the citizens of Maryland. In doing so, under the Public Utilities Article, the PSC must consider the environmental and climate impacts of all matters before it. The PSC aims to support the climate goals of the State and has consulted with State agencies on the various aspects of climate change.

The General Assembly and the Governor have looked to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) to provide recommendations that advise "on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change." Many of the recommendations that are developed by the MCCC are highly technical, and intersect with the work of the PSC and affect the utility ratepayers of Maryland. The PSC has diligently monitored the work of both the MCCC and its working groups. However, the PSC is not a voting member of the MCCC. This limits the ability of the PSC to share information and provide feedback on recommendations that come before the working groups and the MCCC as a whole.

I am requesting that the Chair of the Public Service Commission be added as a standing member of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. The People's Counsel was added as a member of Climate Commission in the recent past. To accomplish this, statute 2-1302 of the Environmental Article of Maryland will need to be amended. The PSC appreciates your sponsorship and support of the bill to make this statute change. I have spoken with the Secretary of the Department of the Environment about PSC membership, and she agrees that the formal participation of the PSC on MCCC would benefit the Climate Change Commission as a whole. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss issues involving the PSC including this request coming before your committee.

Thank you for your consideration.


Frederick H. Hoover
Chair, Maryland Public Service Commission

SB0337 OPC Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: David Lapp

Position: FAV

DAVID S. LAPP
PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

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BRANDI NIELAND
DIRECTOR, CONSUMER
ASSISTANCE UNIT

BILL NO.: Senate Bill 0337
Environment - Commission on Climate
Change Membership - Addition

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

HEARING DATE: February 6, 2024

SPONSOR: Senator Feldman

POSITION: Favorable

The Office of People's Counsel ("OPC") supports Senate Bill 337, which would add the Chair of the Public Service Commission ("PSC") or the Chair's designee to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change ("Climate Commission"), of which OPC is also a member.

The PSC has an important role to play in developing and implementing policies that will achieve the State's ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals set in the Climate Solutions Now Act, particularly in the electricity and buildings sectors. As such, the Climate Commission has made—and inevitably will continue to make—policy recommendations that either directly or indirectly implicate the work of the PSC. The 2023 Annual Report made the following recommendations, among others, that directly implicate the work of the PSC:

- support and enforce the 2025 electric school bus mandate;¹
- provide funding for EV readiness projects;²

¹ Maryland Commission on Climate Change, *2023 Annual Report*, Mitigation Working Group ("MWG") Recommendation #7, p. 12.

² MWG Recommendation #13, p. 14.

- modify the Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement Plan (STRIDE) to reduce ratepayer costs and facilitate electrification;³ and
- sunset financial incentives for fossil fuel appliances/systems in the EmPOWER program.⁴

In developing such recommendations, the Climate Commission would benefit from the PSC's experience and expertise in the area of public utilities law and regulation.

Recommendation: OPC requests a favorable Committee report SB 337.

³ MWG Recommendation #14, p. 14.

⁴ MWG Recommendation #17, p. 15.

SB0337_Favorable_PSC.pdf

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 5, 2024

Chair Brian J. Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 337 – FAVORABLE – Environment - Commission on Climate Change Membership - Addition

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 337 seeks to add the Chair of the Maryland Public Service Commission, or the Chair's designee, to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC). I am requesting a favorable vote on this bill. The mission of the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) is to ensure safe, reliable and economic public utility service to the citizens of Maryland. In doing so, the PSC must consider the environmental and climate impacts of all matters before it. As such, the work of the PSC aims to support the climate goals of the State. The General Assembly and the Governor have looked to the MCCC to provide recommendations that advise "on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change." Many of the recommendations that are developed by the MCCC are highly technical, and intersect with the work of the PSC and affect the utility ratepayers of Maryland. The PSC has diligently monitored the work of both the MCCC and its working groups. However, the PSC is not a voting member of the MCCC. This limits the ability of the PSC to share information and provide feedback on recommendations that come before the working groups and the MCCC as a whole. Voting membership of the PSC will be beneficial to the recommendations put forth by the MCCC.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide favorable testimony on SB 337. Please contact the Commission's Director of Legislative Affairs, Christina M. Ochoa, at christina.ochoa1@maryland.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frederick H. Hoover".

Frederick H. Hoover, Chair
Maryland Public Service Commission

SB0337 - Commission on Climate Change - PSC Membe

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Position: FAV



February 6, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
Annapolis, MD 21401

Support: SB 337 – Commission on Climate Change PSC Membership

Dear, Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

On behalf of the NAIOP Maryland Chapters representing 700 companies involved in all aspects of commercial, industrial, and mixed-use real estate I am writing to support SB 337 which would make the Chair of the Maryland Public Service Commission a member of the Commission on Climate Change. The rationale for NAIOP's position is based on the following:

- Policies related to energy price and supply, utility infrastructure and climate mitigation are interrelated in ways that make it essential for them to be considered together.
- The Commission on Climate Change and its working groups often take up the same challenging policy questions that have been the subject of Public Service Commission work groups or cases.
- Making the Public Service Commission Chair a member of the Commission on Climate Change will make it easier for the two organizations to arrive at coordinated and well-informed climate mitigation strategies.

For these reasons **NAIOP respectfully requests your favorable report on SB 337.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T.M. Ballentine".

Tom Ballentine, Vice President for Policy
NAIOP – Maryland Chapters, *The Association for Commercial Real Estate*

cc: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members
Nick Manis – Manis, Canning Assoc.