



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 656

DATE: February 25, 2020

SPONSOR: Senator Kramer, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Finance

CONTACT PERSON: Amy Samman (amy.samman@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT

Utility Regulation – Consideration of Climate and Labor

Senate Bill 656 requires that climate impacts be included in the list of items that must be considered by State agencies, including the Department of Environment and Department of Natural Resources, when making a recommendation to the Public Service Commission (PSC) regarding applications to build a new power plant. The bill also requires that the PSC consider climate issues when regulating public utilities and considering applications for new power plants or transmission lines. Furthermore, it requires the PSC to consider the maintenance of fair and stable labor standards for works when supervising and regulating public service companies.

Montgomery County supports Senate Bill 656. It is critical that climate impacts be part of the conversation as the State considers construction of new power plants. Collecting data on climate impacts and incorporating it into the decision-making process will assist the State and County in meeting greenhouse gas reduction goals.

For the foregoing reasons, Montgomery County respectfully requests a favorable Committee report on Senate Bill 656.