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Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services
Subcommittee

Joint Committees

Administrative, Executive,
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Audit

Children, Youth, and Families

Fair Practices and
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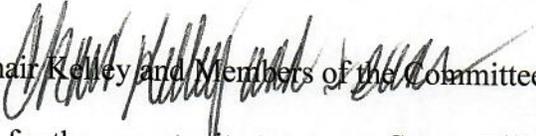
410-221-6561

Testimony for Senate Bill 677

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Municipal Electric Utilities

Finance Committee

February 25, 2020

Madam Chair  and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 677: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Municipal Electric Utilities. This proposed legislation alters the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard for municipal electric companies.

Current law makes a distinction between electric companies and electric cooperatives with regards to the State's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Electric cooperatives must only derive 2.5% of their electricity from solar energy, and other sources can be used to meet RPS requirements. The RPS also does not apply to customers served by an electric cooperative under a supplier purchase agreement that existed on October 1, 2004.

Although being not for profit, like a cooperative, municipal-owned electric utilities must meet the same standards imposed on for-profit energy corporations. These standards put our small, municipal electric utilities at a disadvantage. This legislation seeks parity and sets RPS standards for municipal electric utilities similar to those established for cooperative electric utilities.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 677. Thank you.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Addie Eckardt".

Senator Addie Eckardt