



## **GLEN ECHO HEIGHTS MOBILIZATION**

**Committee:** House Appropriations Committee  
**Testimony on:** (HB 768), Montgomery County- Community Choice Energy- Pilot Program MC 17-21  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** February 18, 2021

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization submits this testimony in support of HB 768. We are deeply concerned about the impacts of climate change, and we want to support Montgomery County's Climate Action Plan goals of 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2027 and 100% by 2035. A crucial step in fighting climate change is transitioning to clean energy, and although the cost of clean energy has come down, cost considerations for individuals, businesses and public entities with limited resources continue to be a hurdle in adopting clean energy.

Clean Choice Energy (or CCE) is a tool that can be used to negotiate lower energy rates on clean energy. There are already 9 states that allow Community Choice Energy, and those communities pay less in energy costs than the standard offer service rates from the utilities. Lower rates on clean energy free up limited County resources for other uses.

And lower energy rates would greatly benefit residents, particularly low-income residents, who are disproportionately impacted by energy cost burdens and are more vulnerable to health risks from fossil fuel pollution.

An important component of the Montgomery County Community Choice Energy Pilot Program is the fact that residents must opt-out, rather opt-in, to the program. Many of us would prefer to use clean energy in our homes, but are daunted by the time required to research clean energy options and carry out the necessary steps to procure it. With CCE's opt-out structure, the work is done for those who want in.

Finally, purchasing clean energy on a large scale as a CCE aggregator leads to local job creation, because a CCE aggregator will be allowed to own and build the means of energy generation, and could choose to pair its electric purchases with other programs such as energy efficiency retrofits, which would require local labor.

For these reasons, we strongly urge passage the Montgomery County Clean Choice Energy Pilot Program.