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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 18, 2021

Chair Dereck E. Davis
House Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 768 – INFORMATION – Montgomery County - Community Choice Energy - Pilot Program MC 17-21

Dear Chair Davis and Committee Members:

I have reviewed House Bill 768 and provide the information below for the Committee's consideration. HB 768 would allow county governments to become Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) and serve as default electricity suppliers for customers within their jurisdictions -- with Montgomery County serving as a pilot jurisdiction.

The legislation would give the Maryland Public Service Commission the authority to approve a schedule, not to exceed two years, for each CCA to transfer load from Standard Offer Service (SOS) to the CCA. In order to implement this law, the legislation requires the Commission to establish procedures via regulation on the following topics:

- authorization for a CCA to access pre-enrollment usage data of customers within its jurisdiction (§7-510.3(m))
- provision of bill assistance (§7-510.3(o))
- customer services including billing and payment (§7-510.3(p)&(q))
- consumer protections (§7-510.3(s))

HB 768 also requires the Commission to convene a stakeholder work group, which will allow various constituencies to work towards a complete set of regulations for Commission consideration. In order to accomplish the bill's requirements and complete the rulemaking process, the Commission will require more time than HB 768 allows. The Commission respectfully requests the revised timeline below, which would grant an additional **15** months:

Dates in HB 768 & Proposed Amendments			
Citation	Milestone	HB 768 Date	Proposed Amendments
§ 7-510.3(r)(2)	Work Group Formation	7/1/2021	9/1/2021
§ 7-510.3(c)(2)	CCA Formation	1/1/2023	12/31/2023
§ 7-510.3(v)	Adoption of Regulations	10/1/2022	12/31/2023
§ 7-510.3(t)(1)(i)2	CCA Pilot Start Date (or earlier, upon application)	1/1/2024	4/1/2024
§ 7-510.3(t)(1)	Pilot End Date (or 7 years after beginning)	12/31/2031	3/31/2032
§ 7-510.3(t)(2)	Pilot Report Date (sixth year after pilot begins)	12/31/2030	12/31/2031

As reflected in the fiscal and policy note, I believe that we can implement the bill with an additional **six** months, as long as we have the resources to hire a consultant. Thank you for the opportunity to provide informational testimony regarding HB 768. Please contact my Director of Legislative Affairs, Lisa Smith, at 410-336-6288 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jason M. Stanek
Chairman