

Mr. Fleetwood,

I would like to take a moment to share my thoughts on Maryland SB 677 as a resident of Berlin, MD.

My understanding of SB 677 is that it serves as an amendment to SB 516 which required electric utilities, including five Municipally Owned Electric Utilities, such as the Town of Berlin, to increase and continue to increase Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) by 50% with the increase escalating each year until the 50% is met in 2030.

In reviewing budget information for the Town of Berlin, I noticed that in 2018 RPS costs were \$46,845, in 2019 this increased to \$156,369 (in part because of the increase based on the new requirement from SB 516), and in 2020, the first full year under SB 516 requirements, the cost rose to \$321,000. This means that in 2 years the Town of Berlin had a 585.24% increase due to these new requirements. There is no way a municipally owned electric utility can manage increases such as this.

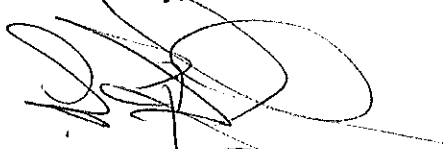
I spent 40 years working in electric utilities having first retired from Dominion Power and then from Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative, both in Virginia. I have seen first-hand the differences between very large stockholder electric companies and municipally owned electric utilities. I understand better than most that as a non-profit utility ALL operating costs are passed to the residents and as such it is the residents of the Town of Berlin who will be forced to find a way to pay for these outrageous increases.

My wife and I are retired and on a fixed income, many of our neighbors are also on fixed incomes. How are we supposed to pay for the increases as outlined in SB 516? We cannot, but there is another option and that brings me to SB 677, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Municipal Electric Utilities.

SB 677 does not remove the requirement for REC's but rather a cap of 2.5% each year, making it more manageable for municipal electric companies. You see, I understand the need for renewable energy and support those efforts but municipal electric utilities need their own plan and not be expected to contribute like larger stock owned electric companies.

As a retired homeowner and resident of the Town of Berlin and as a longtime electric utility employee it seems like a simple yet effective solution. I am always available should you need to speak to me or have any additional questions based on my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gus J. Glikas', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Gus J. Glikas