



TESTIMONY FOR HB0768

MONTGOMERY COUNTY – COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY – PILOT PROGRAM MC 17-21

Bill Sponsor: Montgomery County

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0768 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

Our Coalition members are very conscious of the effects of climate change, and how it impacts our lives and our future. However, many of the solutions that have been contemplated to solve this crisis involve spending more for the energy we currently receive, or having the state government subsidize the transition to clean energy. This bill will create a path towards clean energy WITHOUT costing more.

Under this bill, which will be piloted by Montgomery County, the county or local jurisdictions within the county can pool their rate payers to negotiate with energy providers for 1) lower rates and 2) a greater mix of clean energy. This will force energy providers to seek partners to help provide the increased demand for clean energy, as well as encourage residents to ask for more clean energy. It is a win for the residents of Maryland and a win for the environment.

Who loses? Energy company profits will take a hit, at least in the immediate future. We ask, should that stop us from moving to clean energy and aggressively working to solve the climate crisis? The energy companies will always stand in the way. They've made it clear in the past that their goal is status quo. They have had record profits for years and have shown NO interest in making the transition to cleaner fuels. Let's think of our future and make the smart decisions that will help ensure it.

This bill just makes good sense. We all want cleaner energy and there are many in Montgomery County, and the state who would benefit from paying lower rates. The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.