

STATE OF MARYLAND



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

JASON M. STANEK

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 22, 2023

Chair C.T. Wilson
Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1214 – INFORMATION – Residential Retail Electricity – Green Power – Renewable Energy Credits and Marketing Claims

Dear Chair Wilson and Committee Members:

I write today to provide information regarding HB 1214 - Residential Retail Electricity – Green Power – Renewable Energy Credits and Marketing Claims. HB 1214 requires that electric suppliers, which are marketing their supply as renewable or green, to purchase a specific set of RECs to ensure that green power marketing claims match green/renewable energy purchases. Specifically, HB 1214 requires suppliers advertising “green power” to purchase RECs from Tier 1 renewable sources - excluding biomass, anaerobic digestion, and incineration.

Additionally, HB 1214 requires electric suppliers to make certain disclosures to customers. These disclosures should help customers to better understand the nature of the green/renewable product they are purchasing.

The Commission currently regulates retail suppliers to prevent and deter fraudulent or deceptive marketing practices. The proposed requirements of HB 1214 will increase transparency and allow the Commission to substantiate “green power” marketing claims. The Commission can rely on existing PJM-EIS’ Generation Attributes Tracking System to ensure these RECs are actually purchased and used for the intended purpose. The Commission appreciates the goals of HB 1214 and does not anticipate any significant financial or operational impact on the agency to enforce.

Retail suppliers may attempt to avoid the proposed marketing mandates required in HB 1214 by changing the name/title of their marketing materials to something that does not advertise “green power;” but does advertise generation purchased from a “Tier 1 renewable source,” to include the energy sources excluded by HB 1214.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide information on HB 1214. Please contact Lisa Smith, Director of Legislative Affairs, at (410) 336-6288 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason M. Stanek".

Jason M. Stanek, Chairman