

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF HB1214

“Residential Retail Electricity – Green Power – Renewable Energy Credits and Marketing Claims”

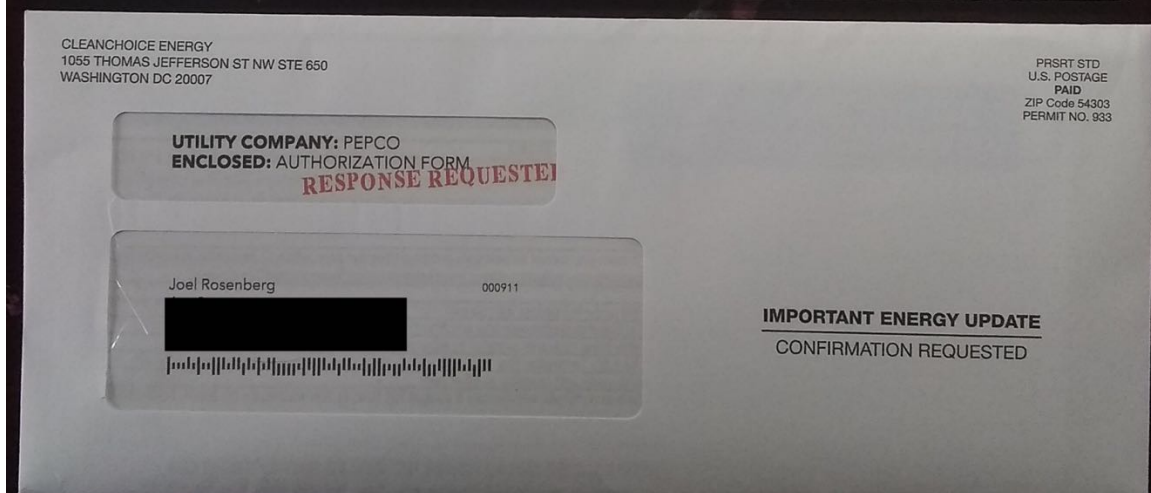
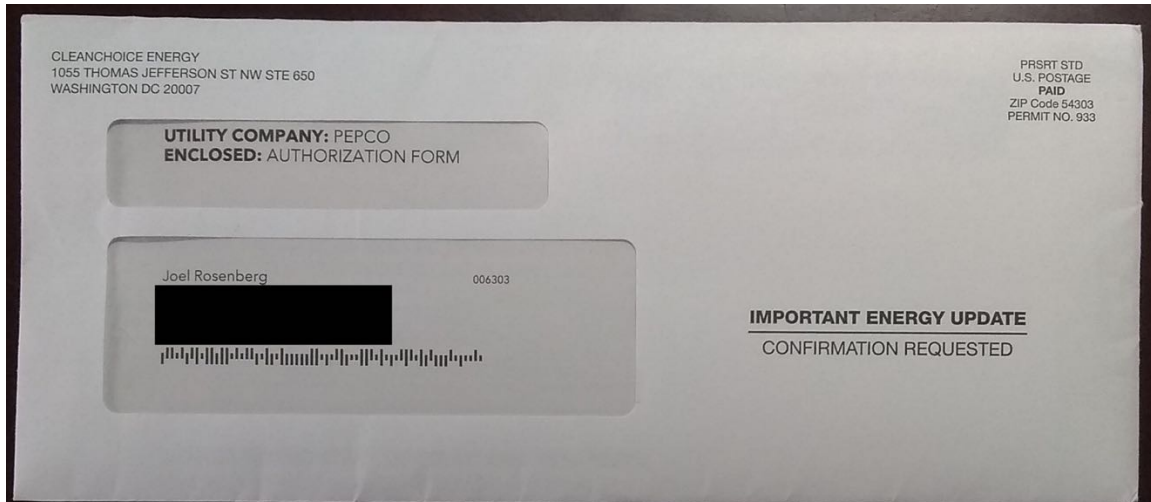
Economic Matters Committee Hearing
February 23, 2023

My name is Joel Rosenberg, and I am writing on behalf of **myself** to urge a favorable report on HB1214.

I live in Takoma Park, Maryland, and moved here last summer. I was excited to learn about Maryland’s retail choice, since as a renter I aim to do everything I can to reduce my climate emissions, and switching to 100% renewable energy is an easy thing to do.

But when I started researching my options, I found [this 2022 article](#) calling out CleanChoice Energy for sneaky energy rate increases. As I dug further, I found the [Energy Supplier Help Desk](#) that documents additional shenanigans from Maryland retail choice.

And then I started getting the mailings. Below are two that I got that basically look like they’re from PEPCO, the second one with “RESPONSE REQUESTED” in red.



I'm pretty savvy, and even I was confused — are these from PEPSCO? If they're asking me for a response, surely I'll have some choice inside?

No, the enclosed forms (photos enclosed in appendix), imply that I'll get "100% clean, pollution-free energy" just by returning this form, which they've asked me to return. But there is no way to refuse their offer on the form — other than not returning it as they've requested.

Further, the fine print on the back says:

"Supplier rates are not regulated. You will receive a variable supply rate with an introductory price for the first three (3) monthly billing cycles. CleanChoice Energy's current introductory price is 13.40¢/kWh. After the third month, your price may vary with no advance notice..."

Not only is the introductory rate higher than the standard PEPCO rate (8.97¢/kWh on my latest bill), but there is nothing preventing it from shooting up after the first three months!

This mailer, and everything associated with it, is predatory. They should not be allowed to send mailers that seem to be from PEPCO. They should have their pricing REGULATED, just like PEPCO. And I am very tuned in to this kind of stuff. Apparently, these companies are going door-to-door in low-income communities to prey on them for more customers, according to this [UC Berkeley report](#) that came out recently.

Please vote favorably on HB1214. Consumers deserve to learn what they're buying. This is a commonsense bill to put guardrails around the marketing claims and energy products they sell to climate conscious families.

Sincerely,

Joel Rosenberg

Appendix

UTILITY COMPANY: PEPCO
ENCLOSED: AUTHORIZATION FORM
RESPONSE REQUESTED

**IMPORTANT NOTICE
ACTION REQUESTED**

Joel Rosenberg

000911



NOTICE TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND RESIDENTS:

Energy deregulation in the state of Maryland allows you to select the energy supply used to power your home.

- 1 **Simply sign and return the form below.**
- 2 **Get 100% clean, pollution-free energy.**

WHAT'S INVOLVED IN CHOOSING CLEAN ENERGY:

It's easy. All that's needed is your permission to switch. Just complete the attached form and return it to CleanChoice Energy in the postage paid envelope.

NOTE: There is no interruption in service, no fee from us to switch, no new equipment, no service call, no change in reliability.

BENEFITS OF CHOOSING CLEAN ENERGY:

- Reduce air pollution
- Reduce toxic waste
- Promote a healthier future

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Your electricity will still be delivered, billed and serviced by Pepco. You are simply telling Pepco to switch your electric supply to CleanChoice Energy.

**FOR QUESTIONS OR TO GET STARTED, CALL (800) 423-9790
OR GO ONLINE TO MYCLEANCHOICEENERGY.COM/SUN**

IMPORTANT:

All that's required to switch is your signature and current Pepco Account Number. Please complete the form carefully and mail today.

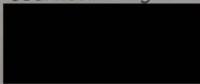
This is a solicitation from CleanChoice Energy. CleanChoice Energy is a licensed competitive retail electric service provider in Maryland and is not affiliated with Pepco.

▼ Detach Before Mailing ▼

CLEAN ENERGY AUTHORIZATION FORM

Return this form in the postage-paid envelope enclosed to obtain your electricity from renewable sources provided by CleanChoice Energy.

FROM:
Joel Rosenberg



STEP #1: Account Number (Required)

Fill in the remaining boxes of your Account Number with Pepco.

5 - -

Important: You must provide your Pepco Account Number. This can be found on your most recent bill.

STEP #2: Authorization (Required)

I am the customer of record and authorize CleanChoice Energy to enroll my address shown at left for 100% renewable energy. I have reviewed and accept the enclosed terms and conditions. I understand that I may switch back at any time without penalty. I authorize this enrollment by signing this form.

Priority Code
AQGRM9557358

Signature **X** _____ Date _____

Email _____

35554001-055-00207005

Important offer details: By responding to this letter you will be enrolling for electricity supply service from CleanChoice Energy — a licensed supplier in Maryland. This a letter from Pepco. Your utility will still maintain the wires, send your bill, and provide reliable service. This offer is valid for Maryland residents in Pepco's service territory. choose to enroll, you will receive full terms and conditions further explaining the details of your plan. Offer expires 03/15/2023.

Electric Generation Supplier Information	CleanChoice Energy MD PSC License No. IR-2843 1055 Thomas Jefferson St. NW #650 Washington, DC 20007 (800) 423-9790 support@cleanchoiceenergy.com www.cleanchoiceenergy.com
Price Structure	Variable month to month. To learn your current variable price and the prospective price, within 12 days of the start of the next billing cycle please visit https://web-cce-production.staging.azurewebsites.net/disclosures/state/MD/estimates/ .
Supply/Generation Price	13.40¢/kWh
Statement Regarding Savings	CleanChoice Energy does not guarantee savings with this plan
Contract Start Date	This contract will be effective after Pepco processes your enrollment
Contract Term/Length	Monthly billing cycle to monthly billing cycle until cancelled by either party
Cancellation/Early Termination Fees	\$0 - No Cancellation Fee / No Early Termination Fee
Renewal Terms	This contract renews month-to-month until cancelled by either party
Electric Distribution ("Utility") Company Information	Pepco is responsible for distribution charges, emergencies & outages 701 Ninth St. NW Washington DC 20068, 1-202-833-7500, http://www.pepco.com/

Important Rate Information: Our rate is for your electricity supply service and does not include any additional tax, distribution service charges, or other Utility fee or Charge. Supplier rates are not regulated. You will receive a variable supply rate with an introductory price for the first three (3) monthly billing cycles. **CleanChoice Energy's current introductory price is 13.40¢/kWh.** After the third month, your price may vary with no advance notice and is based on a number of costs which may include, but are not limited to: energy, transmission, capacity, ancillary services, renewable energy certificates, RTO system fees and other factors, plus CleanChoice Energy operating costs, expenses, and margins. This list of factors is not exhaustive and no single factor will determine the rate. Additionally, we seek to acquire a majority of our anticipated electricity supply in advance rather than from the spot market. For all of these reasons, your variable rate may not correlate with changes in wholesale market prices or your utility's rates. Your variable rate may be higher than your utility rate or other suppliers' rates.

Product Information: Electricity is the product of a mix of energy sources delivered over a system of wires. You will not have electricity from a specific generation facility delivered to Your service address. The energy your home uses will be paired with renewable energy sources through the purchase of wind and solar Renewable Energy Certificates ("RECs"). By purchasing and pairing RECs with your electricity services you are using and receiving the benefits of renewable electricity. Increased demand for, and generation of, renewable electricity can help reduce conventional electricity generation from fossil fuels in the region where the renewable electricity generator is located. It may also have other environmental benefits such as little or no regional air pollution or carbon dioxide. Switching will not impact Your electric service reliability. Your service will always include 100% wind and solar RECs and the specific mix of each resource may vary year-to-year. In 2021, the RECs for our Maryland customers were 70% wind and 30% solar, and CleanChoice Energy procured RECs from: Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, South Dakota, and Virginia. CleanChoice Energy may take up to four (4) months following the close of a calendar year to purchase and retire RECs for this product. On an annual basis, we will report the actual mix of wind and solar RECs retired on Your behalf in the previous calendar year.

Customer Initiated Cancellation: To cancel your CleanChoice Energy service, please call CleanChoice Energy at 855-715-7311 or email support@cleanchoiceenergy.com. You will be responsible for all CleanChoice Energy charges incurred up to the date your Electric Distribution Company effectuates cancellation.

Company Initiated Cancellation: We may cancel your CleanChoice Energy service for any reason other than arbitrary and illegal discrimination based on personal characteristics of the customer. If we cancel your CleanChoice Energy service, we will provide you with a written notice thirty (30) days in advance and your service will return to your utility's default electric supply service unless you choose another supplier.

Complaint/Dispute Procedures: If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about your bill, please contact us by calling our Customer Care Representatives at 855-715-7311 or by emailing us at support@cleanchoiceenergy.com. If for any reason you are not satisfied with our response, you may contact the Maryland Public Service Commission by calling 800-492-0474 (toll-free) or online at www.psc.state.md.us/.

Additional Information: You may cancel or rescind your enrollment without penalty within three days of receiving this disclosure statement. CleanChoice Energy is solely responsible for the content of this marketing material and for the selling to, solicitation and enrollment of customer for energy supply services. For CleanChoice Energy's privacy policy, please visit <https://cleanchoiceenergy.com/disclosures/privacy/>.

CCE is a licensed electricity supplier in Maryland (MD IR-2843).

“Supplier rates are not regulated. You will receive a variable supply rate with an introductory price for the first three (3) monthly billing cycles. CleanChoice Energy’s current introductory price is 13.40¢/kWh. After the third month, your price may vary with no advance notice...”

Frequently Asked Questions About Switching to Clean Energy

Q. If I switch my electricity to clean, renewable sources, who will my utility company be?

A. Pepco will still maintain the wires, prepare your bill and provide reliable service. The only thing that will change is that the electricity your home uses will be replenished by clean, renewable wind and solar sources supplied by CleanChoice Energy.

Q. What will happen to my electricity bills?

A. In short, supporting renewable energy costs more than polluting energy. Usage is a factor in energy costs and residential electricity usage is typically higher in the winter and summer months. See enclosed important offer details for more information about pricing.

Q. What if the power goes out?

A. Call Pepco just as you always have. Outages will be no more or less likely than they've ever been.

Q. Where will the clean energy come from?

A. When you choose clean energy, Pepco will get your energy from a licensed energy supplier, CleanChoice Energy. CleanChoice Energy will source wind and solar power from farms in your region.

Q. Who is CleanChoice Energy?

A. CleanChoice Energy is an energy supplier licensed by the state of Maryland offering only 100% renewable energy.

Q. How is renewable energy different?

A. Renewable energy is produced from wind and solar sources. Unlike conventional electricity sources, renewable sources do not produce carbon dioxide or contribute to air pollution.

Q. What if I want to switch back?

A. You can switch back at no cost and with no interruption of service.

Q. Outside of supply charges, are there any charges or fees if I decide to switch?

A. We charge no fees to switch and no cancellation fee if you change your mind.

Q. Can I switch to clean energy if I rent my home?

A. Yes. If you currently receive and pay your electric utility bill every month on your own, then you can choose clean energy. Just sign and return the form enclosed.

Q. What if I have additional questions?

A. If you have questions or wish to be removed from our mailing list, please call us at 877-763-2503 or email us at support@cleanchoiceenergy.com.

MORE QUESTIONS?

Call (800) 423-9790 or view the enclosed details.