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February 23, 2023

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: ***Support- HB 678- Sales and Use Tax- Electricity for Agricultural Purposes***

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1938, Choptank Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit organization that exists to provide reliable and cost-effective electricity. This service improves the quality of life for our 55,188 member-owners.

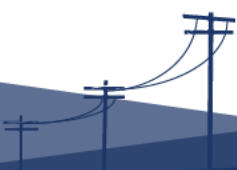
As a cooperative, Choptank Electric maintains a deep commitment to the communities it serves, which covers about two-thirds of Maryland's Eastern Shore. Economic development, especially in our rural areas, is necessary in providing additional resources to our schools and communities, and in improving the livelihood of all residents. Our agricultural members are part of the strong economic backbone of our cooperative and the Eastern Shore.

HB 678 seeks to bring economic vitality and clarity to our agriculture community. Placing small family-owned agricultural businesses on the same tax impartiality configuration as residential and manufacturing accounts provides certainty and a cost-savings measure. **HB 678** will help ensure that our agriculture community continues to thrive, while also providing uniformity toward the distribution and taxation of energy to those who produce food, fuel, and fiber in our state.

Choptank Electric Cooperative and its member-owners ask you to support **HB 678**.

Sincerely,

Matthew Teffeau
Manager of Government Affairs and Economic Development
Choptank Electric Cooperative



Members First. Every Day.