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The Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair
The Honorable Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair
Economic Matters Committee

February 15, 2024

CleanChoice Energy is a renewable energy company founded in 2011 with a mission to make it easy for residential customers to switch to clean, renewable energy. We provide exclusively 100% renewable energy to customers across our footprint and never charge an early termination fee.

We began operating in Maryland in 2013 and currently serve tens of thousands of residential customers with a 100% renewable energy retail electricity product - many of these customers have been with CleanChoice for five or more years due to our steadfast commitment to providing exceptional customer service. While retail energy is the foundation of our business, we are working on innovative new products and services every day. We want to create valued, and long-term relationships with our customers, and retail choice is often the first step to a customer's engagement to support renewable energy.

We submit this testimony to voice our and, most importantly, our customers' opposition to HB236. A well-regulated, retail energy market empowers customers to easily support an energy product that meets their needs - and for our customers, that is 100% renewable energy from regional wind and solar facilities. While it may not be the goal of the bill, HB236 in its current form contains several anti-competitive ideas that will result in fewer innovative products and less choice for Marylanders.

The retail market in Maryland has recently undergone changes that strengthen consumer protection. Last session, the legislature passed, and the Commission just implemented new regulations further protecting low- and moderate-income customers from unforeseen bill increases.

Additionally, under the leadership of Governor Moore, new leadership joined the Commission this summer. Chair Hoover is an experienced consumer advocate and the Commission also recently requested comment on how to better improve the consumer experience in the Maryland retail market. The request for comment elicited numerous ideas from Commission Staff as well as proponents and opponents of the retail market. **The legislature should allow**

the Commission to work through its docket and work with the supplier community to make the Maryland market better for consumers.

CleanChoice stands ready to help Maryland achieve its climate goals and continue to strengthen the retail market through meaningful consumer protection enhancements. We work closely with the Commissioners and Staff of the Public Service Commission to ensure Maryland customers are shopping in the best market possible. CleanChoice wants to be a trusted resource and partner to this committee and the entire legislature as you weigh the issues in HB236. We are proud to do business in Maryland and offer Marylanders the chance to do their part in the fight against climate change.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Spinosi
General Counsel and Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs
CleanChoice Energy