



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Support Senate Bill 570

Public Utilities – Thermal Energy Network Systems – Authorization and Establishment – WARMTH Act

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 29, 2024

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of this bill. This bill will pilot networked geothermal systems in Maryland, through gas companies working in partnership with community groups and local governments to identify and propose pilot projects to the Public Services Commission (PSC).

The City of Takoma Park is a densely developed, largely residential municipality of almost 18,000 people living within 2.4 square miles in Montgomery County. About half our residents are homeowners and half renters, with a wide range of incomes and a significant number of energy cost-burdened homeowners and renters.

Like communities across Maryland, Takoma Park is keenly aware that we must move ahead rapidly, and on many fronts, to meet our local, county and state greenhouse gas emissions goals. Many of our residents, especially lower income homeowners and small multifamily building owners, simply do not have the resources to consider geothermal on their own.

To that end, this bill provides a way to identify and pilot the installation of networked geothermal systems where they can be most effective. New York and Massachusetts have already started similar programs.

This bill will help us meet our city, county and state greenhouse gas emissions goals, as well as city climate, housing, and equity goals and priorities. By focusing on neighborhoods within underserved and overburdened communities, and on networked rather than individual geothermal systems, this bill supports the city's equity goals and allows a wider range of residents to receive the benefits of efficient, electrified heating.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports SB 570 and encourages a favorable committee vote.

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