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## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

January 4, 2024

Chair Brian Feldman  
Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Feldman,

The mission of the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) is to ensure safe, reliable and economic public utility service to the citizens of Maryland. In doing so, under the Public Utilities Article, the PSC must consider the environmental and climate impacts of all matters before it. The PSC aims to support the climate goals of the State and has consulted with State agencies on the various aspects of climate change.

The General Assembly and the Governor have looked to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) to provide recommendations that advise "on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change." Many of the recommendations that are developed by the MCCC are highly technical, and intersect with the work of the PSC and affect the utility ratepayers of Maryland. The PSC has diligently monitored the work of both the MCCC and its working groups. However, the PSC is not a voting member of the MCCC. This limits the ability of the PSC to share information and provide feedback on recommendations that come before the working groups and the MCCC as a whole.

I am requesting that the Chair of the Public Service Commission be added as a standing member of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. The People's Counsel was added as a member of Climate Commission in the recent past. To accomplish this, statute 2-1302 of the Environmental Article of Maryland will need to be amended. The PSC appreciates your sponsorship and support of the bill to make this statute change. I have spoken with the Secretary of the Department of the Environment about PSC membership, and she agrees that the formal participation of the PSC on MCCC would benefit the Climate Change Commission as a whole. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss issues involving the PSC including this request coming before your committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

  
Frederick H. Hoover  
Chair, Maryland Public Service Commission