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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 12, 2024

Chair Marc Korman
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 323 – FAVORABLE – Environment - Commission on Climate Change Membership - Addition

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

House Bill 323 seeks to add the Chair of the Maryland Public Service Commission, or the Chair's designee, to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC). I am requesting a favorable vote on this bill. 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, the PSC must consider the environmental and climate impacts of all matters before it. As such, the work of the PSC aims to support the climate goals of the State. The General Assembly and the Governor have looked to the 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. Voting membership of the PSC will be beneficial to the recommendations put forth by the MCCC.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide favorable testimony on HB 323. Please contact the Commission's Director of Legislative Affairs, Christina M. Ochoa, at christina.ochoa1@maryland.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frederick H. Hoover".

Frederick H. Hoover, Chair
Maryland Public Service Commission