



HB 121- UTILITY TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

TESTIMONY OF BRITTANY BAKER, MARYLAND POLICY DIRECTOR AT THE CHESAPEAKE CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

The Utility Transparency and Accountability Act seeks to ensure that ratepayers across the state can access the records of votes cast by utility companies at meetings of the regional transmission organization, PJM.

Currently, the information on what companies voted for or against in lower level committees is unavailable to the ratepayers who put their trust in these utility companies. The only statistics given are the overall vote percentage, not how each party voted. Even in higher level committees where there is more data available, the votes are only displayed by sector and not by individual institutions.

HB121 would require utility companies to submit an annual report to the Public Service Commission that includes every vote cast at a meeting of an RTO from the previous calendar year.

The issues voted in the committees have included new methods of dispatching renewable energy and the development of a clean energy only market. With this knowledge made public, consumers can find out if their utility company has their best interests in mind and speak up if they are dissatisfied with the decisions at RTO meetings.

Maryland ratepayers deserve to have a full understanding of the goals and objectives of their utility companies and to ensure they are moving forward with decisionmaking aligned with the expressed goals of the state.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB121