



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 597 – Montgomery County – Community Choice Aggregation Pilot
Program – Alterations MC 17-26
SUPPORT

The Rockville Mayor and Council are thankful to Chair Feldman and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee for the opportunity to comment on *HB 597: Montgomery County – Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program – Alterations*. The Mayor and Council support HB 597, as the bill is necessary to extend key dates and allow Montgomery County to advance implementation of its Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) pilot program.

With a population of more than 68,000, the City of Rockville strongly supports expanding access for residents and small businesses to clean and renewable sources of energy and to competitive electricity rates. The city is also committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other hazardous air and water pollution and support State efforts that demonstrate climate and energy leadership.

In 2021, Rockville supported passage of House Bill 768, which authorized Montgomery County to establish the CCA pilot program. HB 597 builds on that effort by extending the pilot timeline to allow additional time for implementation, operation, and reporting on the program's performance. CCA is identified in both the City of Rockville's and Montgomery County's Climate Action Plans as one of the most impactful strategies for meeting local climate goals.

Extending the pilot timeline will allow Montgomery County to aggregate demand more effectively, negotiate more favorable rates with competitive suppliers, and advance the transition to cleaner energy sources that support community-wide greenhouse gas reduction goals.

House Bill 597 supports local and State climate and energy goals, and we urge the Committee to provide this legislation with a favorable report. We thank the Committee for considering Rockville's comments as the Committee deliberates the merits of this legislation.