



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

KATE STEWART
COUNCILMEMBER
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

February 24, 2026

TO: The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Kate Stewart
Montgomery County Councilmember, District 4

RE: House Bill 597 - *Montgomery County - Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program - Alterations MC 17-26* - Support

My name is Kate Stewart and I am the Montgomery County Councilmember for District 4. I am writing on behalf of myself in support of House Bill 597 - *Montgomery County - Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program - Alterations MC 17-26*.

My colleagues and I, like General Assembly members, heard from residents seeking action and exploration of all possible options to lower utility bill costs while delivering more renewable energy. After the passage of Del. Charkoudian's original enabling legislation on Community Choice Energy, lengthy engagement and negotiation between our Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Public Service Commission (PSC), and our own public legislative process at the Council, DEP staff have begun planning for the establishment of our county's aggregator.

Establishing an aggregator to purchase electricity for up to all 1.1 million residents of Montgomery County is an undertaking that must be completed carefully and with due diligence to deliver the best service for our residents. As such, with department staff and consultants currently completing our aggregation plan, and with the lead time of electricity auctions of 2

years prior to providing the purchased electricity, the county needs an extension to the pilot period.

We greatly appreciate the state granting us the authority to pursue this option that at least nine other states and hundreds of localities nationwide have already implemented. Please allow us to keep working to provide residents more options for competitive prices in an unstable energy market.

Please support HB597 to allow our Montgomery County government to continue its work that the Council has authorized and funded to address our energy challenges.