



CLIMATE COALITION
Montgomery County, MD

Testimony on: HB0597 - MC 17-26 Montgomery County – Community Choice
Aggregation Pilot Program – Alterations
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Organization: Climate Coalition Montgomery County
Submitting: Karl Held
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 24, 2025

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Climate Coalition Montgomery County, a group of 20 local organizations whose mission is to lead action on climate change, advance a sustainable and just economy, and build resilience in the face of environmental, social and economic disruption, strongly supports HB0597 - MC 17-26 Montgomery County – Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program – Alterations. We urge a favorable vote in committee.

This is a straight-forward bill. It simply modifies the statutory beginning date of the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Pilot Program in Montgomery County and extends it by two years. Specifically, the bill alters the CCA pilot's starting date to begin on the earlier of the date the county gives notice to the Public Service Commission (PSC) or April 1, 2026 (instead of April 1, 2024) and extends it from seven to nine years. Relatedly, it requires the PSC to submit its interim report on the status and effectiveness of the CCA pilot to the General Assembly in the seventh rather than sixth year of the pilot, and extends the deadline for the PSC's final report to the Governor and General Assembly from December 31, 2031, to December 31, 2035.

In 2021, the General Assembly passed a local bill allowing Montgomery County to undertake a CCA pilot program. Implementing a CCA is extremely important and in fact, it was the number one energy action in the County's Climate Action Plan. However, there have been many steps to get to this point, and it has taken longer than anticipated when the law was enacted. The PSC had to establish a CCA Workgroup and adopt regulations (which took until January 2024), and the County had to pass a local law enabling the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection to implement a CCA (which passed in October 2025). Now, the County must prepare a draft Aggregation Plan (Plan), provide a 60-day notification to eligible residential and small commercial electric customers in the County, and submit the Plan to the PSC for approval; all of which is expected to take the better part of 2026. Once the Plan is

approved, the County must issue a contract(s) for aggregation services and begin to procure electricity contracts over a 2-year period to mirror utility standard offer service electricity procurements. Given the time needed to complete these steps, we support an extension to the statutory deadlines to ensure the County can successfully implement a CCA pilot program, and urge a favorable vote on HB0597.

CCMC Member Organizations

350 MoCo
ACQ Climate (Ask the Climate Question)
Bethesda Green
Biodiversity for a Livable Climate
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Ecosystems Study Group
Elders Climate Action
Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane UU Church
Friends of Sligo Creek
Green Sanctuary Committee UU Church of Silver Spring
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
One Montgomery Green
Poolesville Green
Safe Healthy Playing Fields
Sugarloaf Citizens' Association
Transit Alternatives to Mid-County Highway Extended
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Zero Waste Montgomery County