



Date: February 13, 2020

Testimony of Bruce Burcat, Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition  
Before the House Economic Matters Committee

House Bill 561  
Position: Support

I am Bruce Burcat the Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition (MAREC). I appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments to this Committee on House Bill 165

MAREC is an organization representing many of the leading utility-scale wind and solar developers, wind turbine manufacturers and public interest organizations that support the development of renewable energy in the region.

MAREC supports HB 561. The aggregation of utility customers by one or more municipality or county for purposes of obtaining electricity supply makes a great deal of sense. If these governmental entities are sufficiently large and have substantial buying power for their citizens, they would, not only be able to negotiate favorable pricing terms, these aggregators would also be able to determine the source of the energy secured to meet the needs of their residents.

While these Community Choice Aggregators would still be required to meet Maryland's renewable portfolio standard under this Act, they could decide to exceed these goals. Major corporations, like Google, Microsoft, Amazon and others use their enormous buying power to

negotiate deals to acquire as much as 100% of their energy requirements from renewable energy. These companies enter into these transactions as part of their sustainability goals, and also as a means of reducing and controlling their energy costs with renewable resources that have no fuel costs, like wind and solar energy. These same scenarios could play out with sufficiently sized Community Choice Aggregator with substantial buying power for their residents' energy needs. These aggregators could deal directly with a wind or a solar farm developer that would site, construct and operate a project offering the Community Choice Aggregator the energy and attributes from such a project. These transactions could produce new wind and solar farms that would not have been built, but for the buying power and the interest of communities to band together in order to exceed the State's required renewable energy standards.

MAREC recommends that the bill be voted out of committee.