



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Maryland State Conference

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BILL: HB561
TITLE: Electric Industry – Community Choice Energy Support
NAACP POSITION: Support
HEARING DATE: 2/13/2020 1:00 P. M.
COMMITTEE: Economic Matters Committee
SPONSOR: Delegate Lorig Charkoudian

HB561 is a manifestation of energy democracy and will create an energy equity dynamic. Community Choice Energy provides cities and counties the ability to combine the electric loads of residents, businesses and public facilities to buy and sell electrical energy in a more competitive market. Electric supply bulk purchasing power will be given to cities and counties so they can negotiate on behalf of their residents and small businesses. This means companies that have had a monopoly over the energy policy conversation and the delivery of energy to our communities will no longer have that exclusive power.

This control goes from investor-owned utilities to the people. Democratically elected local governments will be able to decide how their energy is supplied. Community Choice Energy programs can create more energy independence, increase smart energy programs, encourage price stability, and create favorable circumstances for communities to introduce solar, wind, and other various types of clean energy programs; resulting in the creation of good green jobs.

Communities can utilize CCE as a way to achieve other local objectives, such as economic development, community health, environmental issues, and address local employment. Local workers can be trained and contracted to do work that helps their economy and environment. This would also lead to less air pollution and lessen the negative impacts on the environment that are from dirty energy sources

This is a pathway to responsible energy policy and decision making. If we start here, not only will we expand responsible energy decision making in Maryland, we will light the path and lead the way to the rest of this country to get on board with clean and just energy policies.

Jacqueline Boone Allsup, President Anne Arundel County Branch NAACP
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