

Sign on letter from 34 Organizations

Testimony on: HB 561 - “Electric Industry – Community Choice Energy”

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 13, 2020

Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters across Maryland, we are writing to you today to urge you to support legislation authorizing Community Choice Energy (CCE).

With Community Choice Energy, a local government such as a county or municipality will be empowered to purchase electricity on behalf of all consumers and businesses within its jurisdiction. CCE will allow localities to negotiate electricity rates, the source of energy generation, and other key decisions with energy utilities on behalf of consumers and businesses. Community Choice Energy is entirely voluntary. Residents or businesses who do not wish not to participate can opt-out.

At present nine other states have authorized Community Choice energy. But Maryland does not yet allow this type of local control.

Community Choice Energy is an important tool to allow local governments to lower electricity rates and transition rapidly to clean renewable energy.

We urge you to support this important legislation.

Signed,

1199 SEIU

350 Montgomery County, MD

Audubon Maryland-DC

Allegany County Women’s Action Coalition

Bay Hundred Citizens for a Just Society

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Central Maryland Beekeepers Association

Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Clean Water Action

Climate Law & Policy Project

Community Ecology Institute

Echotopia LLC

Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Food & Water Action

Frack Free Frostburg

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCo Climate Action
IndivisibleHoCoMD Climate Action Team
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
Maryland League of Conversation Voters
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland PIRG
MOM's Organic Market
North American Climate, Conservation, and Environment (NACCE)
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church Green Team
Safe Skies Maryland
Sierra Club, MD Chapter
Sunrise Movement Towson
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Western Maryland Green New Deal