



Committee: House Economic Matters

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

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 13, 2020

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On behalf of Neighborhood Sun, Maryland's leading community solar company, I'd like to submit this testimony in favor of HB 561. This bill will give counties and other local jurisdictions the opportunity to take action on behalf of their constituents to lower energy costs and increase their use of clean energy. This model has been tried in several other states already, such as New York and California.

We know that Maryland is trying to be a leader on climate change action and clean energy. HB 561 is a nice fit in the group of policies the state can take in order to maintain this leadership. I'm confident that if this bill is enacted, jurisdictions like Montgomery County, where we are based, will increase their purchases of clean energy.

When considering this bill, it will be important to ensure that its passage would not negatively harm our retail electric choice program, or our community solar program. Neighborhood Sun has helped spark the growth of several new solar projects in Maryland thanks to community solar. Our customers are saving money while supporting the growth of new local clean energy. That's a great situation and we want to make sure it continues.

We are eager to work with the bill sponsor and other supporters to pass this bill and bring more clean energy to Maryland while preserving programs that are working well.