

Jolene Ivey

Prince George's County Council Member

District 5

Committee: Senate Finance

Testimony on: SB0315 - "Electric Industry – Community Choice Energy"

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 25, 2020

Dear Chair Davis, Vice Chair Dumais, and members of the Economic Matters Committee,

Most of us have immediately tossed into the recycling bin those mailers from companies that claim to offer lower electrical rates and the option to have your home powered through renewable sources, if you just sign here.

Oftentimes, customers are overwhelmed by retail energy options, and can find themselves locked into a contract that is far more expensive than they were led to expect. Community Choice Energy (CCE) would allow Maryland communities to break free of this flawed model. Ensuring energy supply contracts are vetted, clean energy increases, and consumer well-being is always at the top of the list of priorities by empowering municipalities and counties to negotiate energy purchasing on behalf of their residents.

CCW would help us switch to cleaner energy and pay less while we do so. If the Community Choice Energy Act becomes law it will allow Maryland communities to take control of their own power and move towards affordable, locally-produced renewable energy sources that will save the planet and residents' hard earned money.

CCE allows communities to choose renewable energy sources such as wind and solar at fixed rates, protecting consumers from unpredictable rate hikes. Since local governments will have a large number of customers, they can also bargain for lower rates. In fact, New Jersey CCA members are seeing savings as high as 10% while increasing clean renewable energy. Residents who don't want to use the local CCE program would be able to opt-out.

CCE will increase access to clean renewable energy. Communities that adopt CCE programs will be able to offer residents affordable options for locally sourced 100% clean renewable energy, reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, which are driving global warming. Community Choice Energy would give many communities access to clean renewable energy for the first time, while helping to reduce the pollution from fossil fuels that disproportionately impacts low-income communities.

The bill is a win in terms of consumer protection, garnering support from consumer rights advocates such as Maryland PIRG and the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition. And it's also a huge win for clean energy, which makes it a win for our economy in Maryland. The solar industry has already invested billions in our state, and last year employed nearly 5000 people.

Increasing local clean energy will help drive more investment and job growth, creating opportunities for even greater benefits to a clean energy economy.

We have an amazing opportunity this legislative session to support a clean energy initiative while providing greater equity to Maryland communities by passing the The Community Choice Energy Act. I urge you to vote yes for consumers, the environment and public health, and to help Maryland join the other eight states that already allow communities to take advantage of this innovative policy.



Todd M. Turner
Chair
District 4

The Hon. Joanne C. Benson, Chair
Prince George's County Senate Delegation
James Senate Office Building, Room 214
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Hon. Ereik L. Barron, Chair
Prince George's County House Delegation
Lowe House Office Building, Room 207E
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: **Prince George's County Council's Position on General Assembly Legislation**

Dear Senator Benson & Delegate Barron:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Prince George's County Council, to transmit our position on pending proposed State legislation for the 2020 General Assembly Session. The Council met on February 18, 2020. The enclosed report reflects our positions on General Assembly bills as they are currently drafted.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to work together with you and your colleagues to address issues important to our citizens and the operation of Prince George's County. Should you have any questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me. For your convenience my office phone number is (301) 952-3094.

Thanks again, for favorable consideration of the Council's position.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Turner
Council Chair

Enclosures

cc: Hon. Angela D. Alsobrooks, Prince George's County Executive

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The Prince George's County Council met on February 18, 2020 with the following Members present:

Council Member, Todd M. Turner, Chair
Council Member, Calvin S. Hawkins, II, Vice Chair
Council Member, Monique Anderson-Walker
Council Member, Derrick L. Davis
Council Member, Thomas E. Dernoga
Council Member, Mel Franklin
Council Member, Dannielle M. Glaros
Council Member, Sydney J. Harrison
Council Member, Jolene Ivey
Council Member, Rodney C. Streeter
Council Member, Deni L. Taveras

The Council voted for the following positions on the respective bills:

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| PG 408-20 | (County Executive) Prince George's County – Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreements – Multiphase Economic Development Projects and Sunset Repeal - SUPPORT |
| PG 411-20 | (Washington) Prince George's County – Marriage License Fees – Distribution of Proceeds- SUPPORT |
| PG 412-20 | (County Executive) Prince George's County – Public Safety Surcharge- SUPPORT |
| PG 413-20 | (Harrison) Prince George's County – School Facilities Surcharge – Foundation for Applied Construction Technology for Students- SUPPORT |
| PG 310-20 | (Charles) Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Intersection of Suitland Road and Skyline Drive- SUPPORT |
| PG 311-20 | (Rosapepe) Maryland Emergency Management Assistance Compact – City of Laurel- SUPPORT |
| PG 312-20 | (Charles) Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages – Cigar Lounge License- SUPPORT |
| PG 313-20 | (Harrison) Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Residential Districts and School Zones- SUPPORT |
| PG 314-20 | (Fisher) Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages – Sunday Off-Sale Permits- SUPPORT |



Todd M.
Turner
Chair
District 4

- PG 315-20** (Lewis, Barron, Harrison) Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages – Carillon Development- **SUPPORT**
- PG/MC 108-20** (Valentino-Smith) Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission Summer Math, Reading, and Science Pilot Program-**OPPOSE**
- HB 569** (Walker) Gaming – Distribution of Video Lottery Terminal Proceeds – Local Impact Grants- **SUPPORT**
- HB 1260** (Speaker) Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Funding- **SUPPORT**
- HB 561/SB 315** Electric Industry - Community Choice Energy- **SUPPORT**
- HB 540/SB 645** State Income and Property Tax Credits - Purple Line Construction Zone- **SUPPORT**
- HB 403/SB 903** Immigration Enforcement - Public Schools, Hospitals, and Courthouses – Policies- **SUPPORT**
- HB 1522/SB 756** General Provisions - Public General Law - Preemption of Local Laws- **SUPPORT**