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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 1, 2022

Chairperson Delores G. Kelley
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, Room 3 East
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 257 – FAVORABLE – Public Service Commission – Reporting Requirements

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

The Commission strongly supports Senate Bill 257, which changes the date when the Commission submits its annual report on the status of Maryland's net metering program to the General Assembly. SB 257 also removes an annual reporting requirement regarding the status and success of the Commission's efforts to educate customers on customer choice.

First, SB 257 extends the annual due date for the Commission's Net Metering Report from September 1 to November 1, to allow time for the Commission to receive and analyze net energy metering data from all regulated utilities in Maryland. The Commission obtains this information from the utilities through data requests, but does not always receive the data within the requested timeframe. Further, any incomplete submissions from the utilities will necessitate additional data requests. SB 257 will allow the Commission sufficient time to query, receive, and analyze the required information, ensuring timely submission of this report.

Second, SB 257 removes the existing requirement for the Commission to report on the status and success of the Commission's efforts to educate customers about retail energy customer choice. This reporting requirement is now redundant since the Commission's reports on these efforts in its *Annual Report*, filed annually in May. The Commission has for several years included in its *Annual Report* information on energy competition in Maryland, including efforts by the Commission to provide resources and educational information to help customers make informed decisions about choosing an energy supplier. For example, the Commission's 2021 *Annual Report* provides details on the launch and success of two new customer choice websites (www.MDElectricChoice.com and www.MDGasChoice.com) following the passage of Senate Bill 517 in 2019, and includes enrollment data for electric choice customers in the State. This legislation eliminates the need for a separate, and otherwise duplicate, report.

Thank you for your consideration of the Commission's testimony. We urge a favorable report on SB 257. Please contact the Commission's Director of Legislative Affairs, Lisa Smith, at (410) 336-6288 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jason M. Stanek
Chairman