

## **Municipally Owned Electric Utilities**

### **Testimony for House Bill 1256**

#### **Electricity – Tariffs, Distributed Energy Resources, and Electric Distribution (Distributed Renewable Integration and Vehicle Electrification (DRIVE) Act)**

#### **Position: Favorable with Amendments**

Dear Chairman Wilson and the Members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of the Municipally owned utilities (“Munis”) in Maryland, comprised of the towns of Easton, Hagerstown, Williamsport, Berlin, and Thurmont.

The Munis support HB 1256 with amendments that would give them the option to participate in the programs required under this bill. Each of the Munis represent a very small footprint of meters and therefore cannot easily socialize the cost of the proposed programs. Additionally, some of the electric utility billing is combined with other services provided by the municipality so would require extensive programming at great expense. As such, we ask for the attached amendments to allow each of the Munis to figure if they can do any of the proposed programs and, if so, on a timeframe that makes the most sense for each municipality.

Sincerely,

Brett Lininger

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On page 5, in line 6, insert after (A): **“EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A)(1),”**

On page 5, after line 9, insert **“(1) A MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.”**

On page 6, in line 14, after (B), insert **“EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C),”**

On page 6, after line 20, insert **“(C) A MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.”**

On page 6, in line 22, after (1) **“EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A)(2),”**

On page 6, after line 26, insert **“(2) A MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM OR TEMPORARY TARIFF.”**

On page 6, in line 27, strike “(2)” and replace with **“(3)”**.

On page 9, after line 14, insert **“(E) A MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.”**

#### Rationale for Amendments:

Municipally owned electric utilities, made up of the towns of Hagerstown, Easton, Berlin, Thurmont, and Williamsport make up a very small number of electric meters in the State of Maryland. While some of the municipally owned electric utilities are looking at ways to implement the provisions of this bill, the costs associated with such programs are significant given the small footprint of each municipality. Other such utilities are just too small to even consider the required provisions at this time as they have less than 3,000 meters each and can only draw funds from a general town fund with many competing demands for funds. As such, we ask that the municipally owned electric utilities be given that opportunity, but not required, to participate in the required provisions of this legislation.