



February 24, 2020

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 0561 – Electric Industry - Community Choice Energy – Oppose

Dear Delegate Davis:

This Community Choice Energy legislation authorizes Maryland counties and municipalities to individually or jointly pass local ordinances to form a Community Choice Aggregator (CCA), beginning on October 1, 2021. A CCA would be allowed to procure electricity as well as own generation and storage. House Bill 0561 requires a local government that seeks to create a CCA to send a single notice to residential and small commercial electricity customers. If a residential consumer or business fails to respond to that notice within 30 days, the Community Choice Aggregator automatically enrolls that customer into its program. If an auto-enrolled customer wishes to leave the program after 180 days, the customer must pay an exit fee of an indeterminate amount.

In the past, this General Assembly has enacted legislation to support an electricity customer's right to choose a power supplier. This legislation runs counter to that goal, and fundamentally limits the ability of our members to have an affirmative voice in whether they participate in the aggregation or buy their energy needs from a different supplier. And finally, to the extent the legislation increases costs of energy supply, it will have a negative impact on the economic competitiveness of Maryland's small businesses.

This legislation compromises our member's choice and is inconsistent with the interests of Carroll County businesses. For these reasons the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 600 members requests that you give this bill an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike McMullin'.

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Delegate Haven Shoemaker
Senator Justin Ready

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