



March 15, 2021

Montgomery County Maryland State Delegation
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for HB 768, Montgomery County - Community Choice Energy - Pilot Program MC 17-21

Dear Montgomery County Delegation:

On behalf of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I am writing to offer our support for bill, HB 768, Montgomery County - Community Choice Energy - Pilot Program MC 17-21. As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, COG supports setting the path for Montgomery County to establish a community choice aggregation (CCA) pilot program, potentially opening the door for additional CCAs. Expanding options for and improving access to clean energy finance at the state and local level align with our 2021 Legislative Priorities.

The bill would enable Montgomery County to negotiate electricity rates to determine the percentage of electricity from renewable energy sources supplied to residents and businesses. This has the potential to significantly reduce electricity emissions, which account for 36 percent of the region's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The bill would enable the pilot program to operate on an "opt-out" basis, meaning residents and businesses are automatically enrolled in the program with the option to not participate. This has significant consumer and environmental impacts, as a greater participation rate allows for reduced energy pricing due to the number of consumers, and further reduces GHG emissions. Expanding options for clean energy decreases market demand for fossil-fuel-generated electricity, thereby decreasing air pollutants and the associated adverse health impacts in our region.

Please contact Jeffrey King, COG's Chief of Energy and Climate Programs at (202) 962-3238 or [jking@mwkog.org](mailto:king@mwkog.org) if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deni Taveras'.

Deni Taveras
Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee
Prince George's County