



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

HB 730, SB 660 Support

Economic Matters

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HB 730: Electric Industry—Community Choice Aggregation

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The City of Takoma Park supports, and urges favorable consideration of, this bill.

Recent reports from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the National Climate Assessment make clear that our climate is dramatically and rapidly changing, with devastating consequences, and that greenhouse gas emissions must be dramatically reduced in the very short term to address these consequences.

Maryland is highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change. We have already begun to witness these, including more severe and frequent storms, greater rainfall, increased flooding, more frequent and extreme heat waves, sea level rise along its extensive coasts, and other detrimental impacts.

This bill gives Maryland's counties and municipalities a necessary tool to address the very real challenges of climate change. Community choice aggregation authorizes counties and municipalities such as Takoma Park to negotiate, on behalf of our residents, for purchase of electricity, allowing us to purchase renewably sourced energy with less GHG emissions on their behalf. It allows communities that have made significant commitments to reducing GHG emissions to move efficiently and effectively in that direction.

Takoma Park has been a leader among Maryland communities in responding to the challenges of climate change and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through our many local policies and actions. Our City is publicly committed to action on climate change through the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sierra Club 100% renewable energy pledge. To truly fulfill these commitments, and move our community toward dramatically reduced GHG emissions, we need tools such as community choice aggregation.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports HB 730/ SB 660, and encourages a favorable vote.