



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

HB 561 Support

Economic Matters February 2020

HB 561: Electric Industry—Community Choice Energy
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The City of Takoma Park supports, and urges favorable consideration of, HB561.

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 an important and necessary tool to address these very real challenges. Community Choice Energy authorizes counties and municipalities to negotiate, on behalf of their residents, for purchase of electricity, allowing local governments to negotiate lower rates and purchase renewably sourced energy with less GHG emissions. 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.

In a recent analysis of options to meet our City's commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 2035, The Cadmus Group rated Community Choice Energy number one in cost-effectiveness.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports HB 561/ SB 315, and encourages a favorable vote.