



Harnessing the Power of Communities

Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

September 9, 2025

Re: Expedited Bill 27-25, Environmental Sustainability - Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) - Established

Position: Support

Dear President Stewart, Vice President Jawando, and Members of the Montgomery County Council,

LEAN Energy US, representing Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) communities serving more than 40 million residents and businesses across 10 states, writes in strong support of your proposed Community Choice Aggregation legislation.

As federal leadership on clean energy and affordability remains uncertain, local governments like Montgomery County can step forward to deliver what communities are seeking: stable pricing, renewable energy access, customer protection, and local economic benefits.

Cost Competitiveness: Despite market turbulence, CCA programs provide 2-25% average savings nationwide with greater price stability than utilities. Recent examples include a New Hampshire CCA delivering significant customer savings and New York CCA programs protecting customers when utility rates doubled in 2022.

Clean Energy Leadership: According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, CCA communities have captured 60% of all renewable power in the U.S. voluntary green power market while representing less than 10% of households. With 75-100% of programs offering 100% renewable options, CCAs consistently achieve 38% lower CO2 emissions than traditional utilities—directly supporting your environmental goals.

Local Economic Benefits: CCAs create construction jobs through renewable energy development, support local workforce development, and reinvest profits directly into communities they serve rather than distant shareholders. California CCAs alone have generated over \$37 billion in clean energy investments supporting 36,000 construction jobs.

Community-Centered Programming: CCA can also enable tailored local initiatives—from rooftop solar and EV infrastructure support to building electrification incentives and programs specifically designed for disadvantaged communities.

While energy market complexity may seem daunting, extensive expertise exists to support your success. Our [2023 national CCA market study](#) documents how communities nationwide have successfully navigated these challenges through partnerships with experienced consultants, program administrators, and organizations like LEAN Energy US. This proven support network transforms potential complexity into a valuable community resource, bringing professional energy procurement capabilities directly to local government.



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The challenges you may be concerned about—market volatility, regulatory complexity, consumer protection—are not unique to CCA but affect the entire energy market. CCA actually provides solutions by offering local control, transparency, professional management, and community accountability that traditional utility structures cannot match.

Montgomery County's specific priorities should serve as your north star, and CCA's flexible structure can be designed to achieve exactly those goals. Whether emphasizing renewable energy, cost competitiveness, local economic development, or innovative programming, CCA adapts to community values rather than distant corporate priorities.

LEAN Energy US stands ready to be a resource, providing technical assistance, best practices and lessons learned from successful programs, and connections to experienced professionals. We've supported communities nationwide through implementation and beyond, ensuring local expertise becomes a lasting community asset.

Your leadership in pursuing CCA represents an opportunity to provide residents and businesses the stability, choice, and clean energy future they deserve during these uncertain times.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cody Hooven', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cody Hooven

Executive Director
LEAN Energy US

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www.leanenergyus.org