

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

1998 Legislative Session

Resolution No. _____ CR-29-1998

Proposed by _____ Council Member Estepp

Introduced by _____ Council Members Russell, Estepp, Wilson, Scott, Hendershot, Bailey,
_____ and Del Giudice

Co-Sponsors

Date of Introduction _____ March 24, 1998

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning

Electric Utility Restructuring

For the purpose of expressing the County Council's support to work with the Public Service Commission and the General Assembly to ensure that electric utility restructuring will be implemented in a manner which will benefit the citizens of Maryland, the Maryland economy, and the Maryland environment.

WHEREAS, the electricity industry is being restructured on the federal and state levels from one that is highly regulated to one in which there is significant competition; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland General Assembly, to date, has not developed a plan to reshape the state's electric industry; and

WHEREAS, electric utility restructuring is very complex and must be regulated in order for its benefits to be fully realized; and

WHEREAS, it is important to our economy and to our communities that the companies who have made investments in our state not be placed at a competitive disadvantage to out-of-state companies who have never made these financial commitments; and

WHEREAS, Maryland's investor-owned electric utilities have an excellent, long-standing record of contribution to the State of Maryland, through employment, tax revenues, and community services; and

WHEREAS, the focus on electric utility restructuring has now shifted to retail

competition, with proposed legislation allowing generating companies to sell directly to retail customers in what was formerly the exclusive franchise area of regulated utilities, while paying state-regulated rates to use the utilities' transmission and distribution lines; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the Prince George's County Council supports the following principles in any attempts to restructure the delivery of electricity:

Customer Choice: state legislation and not federal law should allow customers to select the electric power supplier of their choice;

Transition Timetable: restructuring the electric industry is a major undertaking which should be approached with caution and deliberation to avoid disrupting services to the public, and allow adjustment to potential changes in tax revenues;

Reliability: the Maryland Public Service Commission should continue its important role in ensuring that all consumers can count on the long-term integrity, safety and reliability for electricity service;

Environmental Quality: electricity restructuring should not compromise the quality of our environment and all market participants should contribute equitably to accomplish public policy objectives, such as support for energy efficiency and conservation, air and water quality, environmental standards, renewable energy sources and alternative energy efforts;

Social Programs: social responsibility demands that those with special needs, such as the elderly and low-income customers, continue to be served;

Equitable Taxation: the Maryland tax structure must be modified to ensure that all energy sales are subject to the same taxes;

Equitable Benefits: any restructuring program should result in all rate payers equitably sharing in the benefits of a restructured environment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Council shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates and to each member of the Maryland Congressional Delegation.

Adopted this 24th day of March, 1998.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY:
Ronald V. Russell
Chairman

ATTEST:

Joyce T. Sweeney
Clerk of the Council