


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Theodore Atwood, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of General Services 800 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 11-0315R		

DATE: October 14, 2011

TO

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 - City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 11-0315R introduced by Council Members Stokes, Branch, Cole, Middleton, Holton, Council President Young, Council Members Conaway, Henry, Welch, Curran, Clarke and Reisinger.

The purpose of the Resolution is to invite representatives from the Department of General Services, the Mayor's Office of Information Technology, the Maryland Energy Administration, the Maryland Public Service Commission, and the Office of the People's Counsel to appear before the Council to discuss the feasibility of developing a "Baltimore City Electric Choice Website" and the formation of a work group to consider the further development of mechanisms to advance true competition in Baltimore City's residential and small commercial mass electricity market.

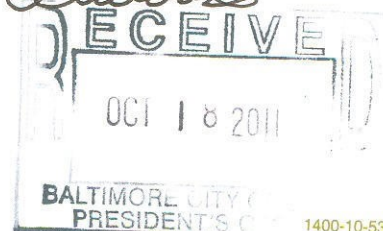
The Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) provides information on their website (www.psc.state.md.us) to assist Maryland citizens in their selection of an energy supplier. In addition to providing a list of suppliers licensed by the PSC, the website also provides basic and clearly written information about choosing an energy supplier, what contracts may be offered, and how to settle disputes.

The Maryland Office of the People's Counsel has a website (www.opc.state.md.us) that explains what energy suppliers, brokers, and aggregators are, a chart comparing supplier prices, and directs the web visitor to sites that explain what help is available to the consumer in paying energy bills and other basic needs. Both of these websites provide valuable information to consumers and provide links to each other's websites. This type of information is only good if updated and maintained and both organizations do a good job in keeping the information current and relevant. One option the City could consider is to provide a link on the City's website to these two organizations' websites, along with directions on how to access the energy choice information.

The Department of General Services will have representatives available at the Council committee hearing to assist in the discussion on City Council Resolution 11-0315R.

Theodore Atwood
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Director

Comments



TA/MMC:pat