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## MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL: PUBLIC HEARING

### **Whitney Cooper from Elysian Energy testifying in support of Bill 7-14, Contracts and Procurement – Certified Business Program**

I support Bill 7-14 Contracts and Procurement – Certified Business Program. My company, Elysian Energy, helps the environment by reducing energy use for homeowners and businesses. We became a Certified Green Business so that our internal practices match our external practices of reducing energy and waste. The process of obtaining this Certification was stringent. We realized our company needed to do more to prove ourselves worthy of the Certification and ended up changing many processes in our day-to-day operations in order to improve our environmental impact. We created a Green team that is still implementing ways to reduce energy use and waste in our business practices. Those practices have the additional benefit of translating into our personal lives. We are not only a green business we have now become a green community. We were truly proud to have received our Green Business Certification. When trying to identify Green businesses in Montgomery County, the Certified Green Business Program is a great place to start, as it is a ready made and legitimate benchmark.

This Bill would give preference to companies like ours that are actually walking the walk as well as talking the talk in protecting the environment and reducing energy use. Giving oversight to all companies that claim to be “green” is necessary so that companies don’t use that as a marketing technique when they actually aren’t doing anything to improve the environment.

I support this Bill so that more companies like ours will make efforts to improve their environmental practices in order to get preference for upcoming bids.

Thank you for your time and for giving us the opportunity to speak at this hearing.