



SUPPORT
House Bill 818

Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems – Consolidated Billing

Economic Matters Committee
February 24, 2022

Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair, Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association (CHESSA), thank you for the opportunity to issue our **SUPPORT** of **House Bill 818**, which would allow the option for consolidated billing for community solar customers instead of the current practice of receiving two bills from the community solar organization and the utility.

CHESSA is supportive of implementing consolidated billing as an option to enhance community solar participation. If implemented properly with a reasonable fee structure and with a transparent, easy-to-understand customer interface, consolidated billing can provide direct benefits to Maryland community solar customers—including low-to-moderate (“LMI”) subscribers---and help Maryland achieve its clean energy and equity goals by enabling greater access to community solar development at lower cost.

Billing systems have been frequently cited as an impediment to increasing participation in community solar programs. From the customer’s point of view, consolidated billing changes the relationship between the customers and the subscriber organization by placing all community solar subscription information on the subscriber’s utility bill. HB 818 will provide the option to enhance the customer experience for those that prefer a single bill. For LMI customers this is especially important, because increasing the number of bills that LMI customers must pay is a significant barrier—even if the result of their participation as a subscriber is a net savings.

Because consolidated billing reduces billing and collection costs for subscriber organizations who opt in and no longer need to send bills, monitor collections, or experience lost revenue because of customer non-payment, HB 818 has the potential to reduce soft costs associated with community solar project development and operations.

On behalf of CHESSA, thank you for your support of Maryland’s solar industry. We urge a favorable report on House Bill 818.

Submitted by:
Scott Elias, Solar Energy Industries Association on behalf of CHESSA