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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Testimony in Support of House Bill 818

Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generation – Consolidated Billing

Chair Kelley and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I write to urge your support for House Bill 818.

The Community Solar Pilot Program allows all Marylanders to participate in the generation of solar power. Community Solar enables Marylanders to purchase solar generation from a solar panel at a place other than their home and credit the generated electricity against their electric bill through net metering. This allows people who live in places where solar generation is impossible to participate – apartment or condo dwellers, or people with homes unable to support a solar array.

Low and moderate income Marylanders have struggled to participate in community solar because those cost are encumbered on a second bill – a bill that requires a new credit check on a debit or credit card. Community Solar is designed to allow greater access to net metering and solar generation – particularly for low and moderate income Marylanders.

HB818 will help solve this problem by allowing community solar costs and generation to be included on one consolidated bill. This single consolidated bill will help low and moderate income Marylanders avoid credit and payment issues, and will help them, if necessary, receive support from the Office of Home Energy Programs.

For those reasons, I request a favorable report of House Bill 818.

Respectfully submitted,

Luke Clippinger

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