



**HoCoClimateAction.org**  
Howard County, Maryland

**Testimony on SB0733  
Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Pilot Program - Alterations**

**Hearing Date: March 1, 2022**

**Bill Sponsor: Senator Kramer**

**Committee: Finance**

**Submitting: Liz Feighner for Howard County Climate Action**

**Position: Favorable**

[HoCo Climate Action](#) – is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing more than 1,450 subscribers, and a member of [the Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#). HoCoClimateAction strongly supports SB 733, Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Pilot Program - Alterations.

The IPCC challenges the world to reduce greenhouse emissions rapidly to avoid even more catastrophic effects of the climate crisis. An IPCC report released on Tuesday, Feb 28 confirms how little time we have to act. [New York Times](#) reports: Current efforts are too often “incremental.” Instead we will need “**‘transformational’ changes that involve rethinking how people build homes, grow food, produce energy and protect nature.**” We need to quickly expand clean energy projects without unnecessary barriers.

This bill repeals the requirement that a community solar energy generating system be located in the same electric service territory as a subscriber for the subscriber to receive electric bill credits.

Many members in our organization who live in the BGE territory had to wait many months to join a community solar project until one was available in BGE even though the Pepco utility territory had community solar projects open for subscription. Some projects could have moved faster if more customers from other utility territories had been able to sign up since most projects need a certain percentage of subscribers before the project breaks ground..

This bill extends customer flexibility to join community solar projects and gives customers more choices. It also may provide a larger customer pool for the subscriber organization developing community solar projects.

For all the reasons stated above, Howard County Climate Action urges a **favorable** vote from the committee.

HoCo Climate Action

Submitted by Liz Feighner & Ruth White, Howard County, MD  
Steering and Advocacy Committee

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