

HB1250 -Maryland Solar Investment Tax Credit and Task Force to Study Solar Energy Incentives

Date: March 9, 2022

Committee: House Ways and Means Committee

Position: Favorable

Victoria Venable, Maryland Director Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report from the committee on **HB1250 -Maryland Solar Investment Tax Credit and Task Force to Study Solar Energy Incentives**.

The CCAN Action Fund is the advocacy arm of Chesapeake Climate Action Network (“CCAN Action Fund”), a grassroots organization dedicated exclusively to fighting for bold and just solutions to climate change in the Chesapeake region of Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. For years, we have worked hard with members of the Maryland General Assembly to encourage the deployment of renewable and clean energy as a climate mitigation strategy. We also believe that clean energy projects should support fair and family-sustaining employment.

HB1250 creates tax incentives for small solar projects (under 2MW) that use good labor practices, including:

- Offering the prevailing wage rate for each trade (unless covered by a project labor agreement)
- Participating in an apprenticeship program
- Compliance with federal and state wage and hour laws for at least 3 years
- Establishing a local employment recruitment plan
- Offering healthcare and retirement benefits

This bill also creates a Task Force to Study Solar Energy Incentives. We strongly support provisions in this bill that require representatives from the Chesapeake Climate Action Network and the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club to sit on the task force. We believe that it is crucially important for groups devoted to mitigating climate change to be part of the conversation regarding solar energy incentives.

Thank you for your consideration of HB1250. For all the reasons stated above, we urge a favorable vote from the committee.