



March 3, 2022

Delegate Jessica Feldmark
Ways & Means Committee, Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support for House Bill 1250
Maryland Solar Investment Tax Credit and Tax Force to Study Solar Energy Incentives

Dear Delegate Feldmark and members of the Ways & Means and Economic Matters Committees:

I am writing to voice AIA Maryland's support for House Bill 1250. AIA Maryland represents nearly 2,000 architects in the state of Maryland and advocates for the profession and the quality of the built environment. As architects, we fully support sustainable strategies in building design, construction, and technology as we collectively work to realize environmental, economic and social sustainability for the citizens of Maryland.

We recognize that buildings alone are responsible for approximately 39% of the global greenhouse emissions and that we need to reduce our appetite for energy consumption. The latest climate data tells us that reducing carbon emissions is not enough. To make the biggest impact, we must all commit to net zero emissions by 2030 – a path that requires strong, immediate action. The AIA 2030 challenge is driving many of our members to strive for carbon neutral major renovations and new buildings by 2030. At AIA Maryland, we are fully in support of this move away from fossil fuels and, as we continue to design our buildings to be more efficient, a switch from fossil fuels to electrification and renewable resources.

Our homeowners can play an important role in transitioning our own state away from fossil fuels, as nearly 21% of electricity use is residential and 28% of natural gas use is residential. Of Maryland's renewable energy resources, solar development has been growing the most over the past few years. It is in the state's interest to encourage and incentivize our taxpayers to install solar technology on their residential properties. HB 1250 will ensure that our homeowners will be incentivized to be part of the climate solution. This bill allows a taxpayer to claim a credit against their state income tax for certain costs incurred while installing solar energy technology. The Maryland Energy Administration will be responsible for administering the tax credit. Further, HB 1250 will also establish a Task Force to study the state's existing solar energy incentives and make recommendations in regard to providing measures that ensure that solar energy development in the State of Maryland *also* creates good quality, family-sustaining jobs. We recognize that taking care of our environment only works if we are also taking care of our people. As our citizens and communities shift to carbon neutrality, it makes good sense that our homeowners be leading the way in meeting these reduction targets to reach carbon neutrality by 2035.

A healthy climate is key to a healthy and safe future for us, our children, and our grandchildren. By implementing common sense climate solutions today, we can preserve a livable planet, clean air and clean water for generations to come. A healthier climate and safer future are possible, but only if we act fast. We encourage you to make a commitment to both the natural and built environment and for the citizens of Maryland by supporting this bill. AIA Maryland is glad to support this bill and we ask for your vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "ENOOK".

Elizabeth Nook, AIA
President