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RE: Senate Bill 0469 – Task Force to Study Tax Incentives

**Favorable with Amendments**

Chair Guzzone, Senator Elfreth, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

The Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) provides this written testimony regarding Senate Bill (SB) 0469. CCSA's position on this legislation is Favorable with Amendment, as outlined below and attached.

CCSA is a national, business-led trade organization, composed of over 100 member companies, that works to expand access to clean, local, affordable energy nationwide through the development of robust community solar programs. Today, the majority of households and businesses do not have access to solar because they rent, live in multitenant buildings, have roofs that are unable to host a solar system, are shaded by trees, or experience some other mitigating factor. Community solar provides a solution to this gap by allowing local solar facilities to be shared by multiple community subscribers who receive credit on their electricity bills for their share of the power produced.

CCSA has been an active participant in the development and implementation of Maryland's community solar pilot program. Community solar is in high demand in Maryland, as demonstrated over the first six years of the pilot program which has resulted in over four hundred megawatts of reserved capacity that is either under development or in operation.

Senator Elfreth and Chair Guzzone's SB 0469 would: (1) establish a Task Force to Study Solar Tax Incentives to study and make recommendations regarding a tax strategy that is more competitive than the current strategy to maximize the installation of rooftop solar panels, to facilitate and promote installation of grid-connected generation of renewable energy, and to meet the state's renewable energy goals; and 2) require the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly one or before December 15, 2023. CCSA seeks one amendment to clarify that maximizing community solar should also be an objective of this Task Force and study. See the attached amendment for the bill.

With this amendment, CCSA supports the passage of SB 0469. We look forward to working with Chair Guzzone, members of the committee, and all interested parties to achieve this technical fix in a manner that includes all solar segments who are active in achieving the state's clean energy goals.

Sincerely,

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**Coalition for Community Solar Access  
Proposed Amendment to SB 0469**

AMENDMENT

On page 2, on line 27, after “rooftop solar panels”, insert the following: “and community solar energy generating systems”.

Explanation: The purpose of this amendment is to clarify that the scope and purpose of the Task Force shall also include the maximization of community solar in meeting the State’s renewable energy goals.