



Testimony for HB0908 Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Clippinger

Committee: Economic Matters

Position: FAVORABLE

The undersigned organizations express their strong support for **HB0908 Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program** and thank the sponsor, Delegate Clippinger, for introducing such an important piece of legislation. We strongly support this bill and believe that community solar is a critical component of Maryland’s plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

The community solar program was at the time it was passed, a groundbreaking program that would allow residents who could not afford solar panels on their roofs to help build solar capacity in the state and enjoy the benefits of using solar. It is one of the best ways to ‘green our grid’ and ensure that we transition more smoothly off of fossil fuels.

The fact that the program is sunseting at the end of 2024 is very concerning in and of itself, given the goals for greenhouse gas reductions that the state has committed to, and the fact that the program itself has been so successful in building solar capacity in the state.

We need to not only continue the program, but to enhance it and make it more accessible to low-income residents, who often don’t own their residences or can’t afford to install solar panels. The greatest barrier to their participation in this program is the lack of consolidated billing that effectively blocks them from using Energy Assistance to participate. If the billing was consolidated, those low-income residents would be able to participate and would save roughly 10% on their electricity costs. This is an important savings in our current economy.

Another advancement of the program that is being proposed in this legislation is the requirement that developers dedicate at least 40% of their project capacity to low-and-moderate income residents which will allow more participation by the residents who most need to convert off of fossil fuels.

We believe that this program is critical to our success in meeting our greenhouse gas reductions and could also encourage low-income residents to switch to cleaner energy and help put more clean energy into the grid. All things that we should be supporting. Thank you for your consideration of HB0908 – Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program. We support this bill and we urge a **FAVORABLE** vote from the.

Endorsing Organizations

350 Baltimore	HoCo Climate Action	Potomac Conservancy
350 Montgomery County	Howard County Indivisible	Sustainability Advisory
Adat Shalom Climate Action	Howard County Sierra Club	Committee
Assateague Coastal Trust	Interfaith Power and Light, DC,	Sierra Club, Maryland
Audubon Naturalist Society	MD, NoVa	Chapter
Casa de Maryland	Labor Network for	Strong Future Maryland
Cedar Lane Unitarian	Sustainability	Sunrise Baltimore
Universalist Church	Laurel Resist	Takoma Park Mobilization
CHEER	Maryland Environmental	Environment Committee
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Health Network	Talbot Rising
Chesapeake Climate	Maryland League of	The Climate Mobilization
Action Network Action Fund	Conservation Voters	Montgomery County
Chesapeake Physicians for	Maryland Legislative	The Nature Conservancy
Social Responsibility	Coalition	Unitarian Universalist
Chispa MD	Maryland NAACP	Legislative Ministry
Clean Air Prince Georges	State Conference,	Wicomico NAACP
Clean Air Prince Georges	Environmental Justice	WISE
Clean Water Action	Committee	
Climate Law & Policy Project	Maryland Poor People's	
Climate Parents of Prince	Campaign	
Georges	MCPS Clean Energy	
Climate Reality Montgomery	Campaign	
County	MD Campaign for	
Climate Solutions	Environmental Human	
Climate Stewards of	Rights	
Greater Annapolis	Mid-Atlantic	
Climate XChange - Maryland	Ministry of Maryland	
Coalition For Smarter Growth	MoCo DCC	
Columbia Association Climate	Montgomery Countryside	
Change	Alliance	
Concerned Citizens Against	Montgomery County Faith	
Industrial CAFOs	Alliance	
Do The Most Good	Mountain Maryland	
Montgomery County	Movement	
Echotopia	National Parks Conservation	
Elders Climate Action	Association	
Environmental Justice Ministry	Nuclear Information &	
Frack Free Frostburg	Resource Service	
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization		
Greenbelt Climate		
Action Network		