



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 23, 2023

TO: The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair, Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 908, *Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program*
Support

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 908, *Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program*, which would improve Maryland's community solar program and make it permanent.

We are in a climate emergency. Shifting our energy sources to clean, renewable resources like solar is critically important to achieving state and local climate goals, including our goal here in Montgomery County to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. Domestic resources like solar and wind can play critical roles in powering our economy, creating jobs in Maryland, and improving public health.

Community solar projects offer a valuable pathway to build new solar in Maryland, and to enable more residents to support solar, even where adding solar to their own properties is not feasible. The community solar pilot program operated by the Public Service Commission is helping. However, that program is currently scheduled to sunset, at best creating a level of uncertainty that will stall the community solar market when we need it to grow.

This bill will make the pilot program permanent. It will also improve the program by removing annual, utility-specific, and certain project size caps; ensuring that more community solar output will benefit low-to-moderate income families; and allowing subscribers to participate in consolidated billing, which is critically important for families receiving energy assistance.

I respectfully request that the Economic Matters Committee give this bill a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Economic Matters Committee