

BILL# HB0908 Support  
Date of Hearing : 02/23/23  
Ishaan Busireddy  
Ellicott city, MD 21042

**TESTIMONY ON HB0908- POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program**

**TO:** Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee

**FROM:** Ishaan Busireddy

My name is Ishaan Busireddy. I am resident of District 9A and a Sophomore at River Hill High School in Howard County, Maryland. I like to consider myself environmentally friendly and try my best to educate the people around me about the best practices to protect the Earth, such as food self-sufficiency, renewable energy, recycling,

My family installed rooftop solar in 2017. Since then, we have produced about 130 megawatt/hours of solar energy with the following environmental benefits equivalent to 1420 trees planted and saved CO2 emissions of 85,500 kg.

By passing HB0908, we can break the cycle of poverty, unemployment, underemployment, and incarceration in our urban communities across the nation through economic empowerment and clean energy access.

While the advantages of substituting regular electricity with solar energy are widely publicized, unfortunately not everyone can afford to install solar energy panels. For low- and middle-income households, the financial benefits of solar power can make a big difference. Many lower-income households carry a large energy burden, meaning that energy and utility costs consume a large share of their income. Across the U.S., low-income households spend about three times more of their income on energy costs than other households according to the Nature study Bedar and Reames.

HB0908 could help families reduce their monthly expenses, in turn helping the environment. Berkeley Research shows that decisions to install solar systems are increasingly driven by the prospect of saving money, rather than strictly by green values or buyers' interest in new technologies. A survey led by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory found that roughly half of the people who decided to install solar in California, New Jersey, New York, and Arizona from 2014 to 2016 identified cost savings as a primary factor in their decision to adopt solar.

The declining cost of solar energy is creating opportunities for all Americans to save money on their energy bills, and no one benefits from energy savings more than low-income consumers, who pay a much higher portion of their income for energy than middle and high-income consumers. But being poor creates barriers to accessing solar power and its economic benefits. Low-income consumers lack sufficient savings that can be used to buy solar systems, and they may have low credit scores or a lack of credit history that may impede their ability to finance a system. They are often renters, or live in multifamily housing, without ownership of their roof.

By approving HB0908 we can make the households without home ownership receive the same kind of benefits as others who can afford it. HB0908 is an equitable solution for low and medium-income households. The NREL also found in a study that [42% of rooftops](#) where solar power could work are on low- and moderate-income housing.

Deploying solar power for low- and moderate-income households can fulfill policy and social goals such as creating jobs and improving the environment. According to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, utility-scale solar power produces between [394 and 447 MWh](#) per acre per year. Thus, an acre of solar panels producing zero-emissions electricity saves between 267,526 to 303,513 pounds, or 121 to 138 metric tons, of carbon dioxide per year.

I respectfully urge this committee to vote in favor of HB0908.

Sincerely,

Ishaan Busireddy

