

February 23, 2022

Maryland House of Delegates
House Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 908 - Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

Thank you for holding this public hearing today and allowing our testimony. I write to you to urge your favorable recommendation of House Bill 908. This bill will make the Community Solar Energy Generating Systems (CSEGs) Pilot Program a permanent program.

Pivot Energy is a national Community Solar provider with an East Coast headquarters in Howard County, Maryland. Pivot develops, finances, builds and manages solar energy and energy storage projects that help decarbonize our nation's electricity, increase equitable access to clean energy for local communities and provide real cost-savings to American businesses and families. Pivot is fiercely dedicated to accelerating the rapid transition taking place in the energy industry to a more decentralized and cleaner approach to power generation. We are committed to positively contributing to the local communities and people we serve with more than clean energy. We believe global warming poses an existential threat to our planet and that we have a responsibility to help mitigate the threat.

Pivot Energy fully supports the proposed legislation. This bill will give the Community Solar industry the necessary assurance that Maryland will continue to have a Community Solar program for many years to come, rather than worrying about the ever-approaching sunset date of the Pilot Program.

This bill will streamline the process for Community Solar companies to submit proposed CSEG applications. The bill does this by removing the various categories from the Pilot Program while establishing an across-the-board requirement for low- and moderate-income subscribers for all CSEGs. Pivot wholly supports and appreciates this increased LMI requirement.

Beyond the normal benefits that Community Solar offers, Pivot Energy appreciates that this legislation recognizes emerging Community Solar options that have the potential to offer even greater benefits. By allowing those CSEGs, which utilize agrivoltaics and meet the higher minimum threshold of 75% LMI subscribers, to be located adjacent to one another will create the opportunity for creative Community Solar development approaches to have an expanded ability to reach more subscribers who can receive the benefits.

By passing this legislation, it will create certainty in the Community Solar industry and allow the state to continue towards meeting its renewable energy goals. Pivot Energy supports HB 908, and we respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable report.

Thank you for your support of this bill. We are available for any questions you may have.

Regards,

TYLER D. JONES

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