

The Electricity-Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program, HB908, that has a House hearing on 2/23 at 1:00 p.m is a bill that should be strongly supported.

My name is Aneesh Puranam, and I am representing the Youth Climate Institute (YCI) of the Howard County Conservancy Center, and I am testifying for the ratification of this bill through the Legislative Action Team through YCI.

The reason that I am testifying for the ratification of this bill is due to how impactful and useful that this bill is to Maryland communities. Solar energy itself is an excellent renewable energy source that has garnered a lot of attention and attraction recently. 75% of Maryland households are not able to get solar panels on their roofs, but if Marylanders are able to purchase small solar projects in order for them to be built, it can expand solar capacity to benefit the entire community. Each solar project can each provide solar energy to several hundred households. Moreover, the electricity from Community Solar costs less. It has been reported that the cost is 5-10% below the utilities standard electricity service. Low and moderate income households get to pay even less for this pilot program.

In addition to these reasons, this pilot program is already successful. Over 60 Community Solar projects are already serving more than 10,000 Maryland families, with more than 200 additional projects in development. The program has also created a robust industry and good jobs.

Therefore, this bill is a really useful piece of reform that will help the environment, and help climate change overall as well with the many advantageous opportunities that this bill opens up for us.