



**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment  
**Testimony on:** SB613 – Electricity - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program  
**Organization:** Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing  
**Submitting:** Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** February 28, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in strong support of SB613. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, enthusiastically urges you to vote favorably on SB613.

SB613 will make the Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Pilot Program (Program) permanent rather than letting it sunset in 2024. The bill places a greater focus on expanding community solar access to low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents by requiring at least 40% of the kilowatt-hour output be for LMI subscribers and by requiring utility consolidated billing, which places all energy charges in one utility bill.

Community solar is an important piece of Maryland’s transition to clean energy. An estimated 75 percent of Maryland households are unable to have their own rooftop solar due to too much shade, or because they live in an apartment, condo, or rent their home. Since 2017, the Community Solar Pilot Program has provided home-owners, renters, and businesses access to the environmental and price benefits of solar energy. By making the Program more accessible and permanent, Marylanders can advantage of all these benefits into the future, without any pause or interruption to the Program.

SB613 strengthens the Program in several ways. It will allow energy assistance households to become community solar subscribers and apply their energy assistance benefits to all of their electricity charges through consolidated billing. The bill also includes siting preferences that protect forests and encourage generation on developed land, including clean landfill sites, industrial areas, rooftops, and parking lots. Finally, the bill will provide certainty to solar businesses and support the State’s solar workforce, while helping Maryland move closer to its solar generation targets.

For these reasons, we strongly urge a **FAVORABLE** report for SB613 in committee.