



## Testimony for SB0613 Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Brooks

**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Position:** FAVORABLE

The undersigned organizations express their strong support for **SB0613 Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program** and thank the sponsor, Senator Brooks, for introducing such an important piece of legislation. We strongly support this bill and believe that community solar is a critical component of Maryland’s plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

The community solar program was at the time it was passed, a groundbreaking program that would allow residents who could not afford solar panels on their roofs to help build solar capacity in the state and enjoy the benefits of using solar. It is one of the best ways to ‘green our grid’ and ensure that we transition more smoothly off of fossil fuels.

The fact that the program is sunsetting at the end of 2024 is very concerning in and of itself, given the goals for greenhouse gas reductions that the state has committed to, and the fact that the program itself has been so successful in building solar capacity in the state.

We need to not only continue the program, but to enhance it and make it more accessible to low-income residents, who often don’t own their residences or can’t afford to install solar panels. The greatest barrier to their participation in this program is the lack of consolidated billing that effectively blocks them from using Energy Assistance to participate. If the billing was consolidated, those low-income residents would be able to participate and would save roughly 10% on their electricity costs. This is an important savings in our current economy.

Another advancement of the program that is being proposed in this legislation is the requirement that developers dedicate at least 40% of their project capacity to low-and-moderate income residents which will allow more participation by the residents who most need to convert off of fossil fuels.

We believe that this program is critical to our success in meeting our greenhouse gas reductions and could also encourage low-income residents to switch to cleaner energy and help put more clean energy into the grid. All things that we should be supporting. Thank you for your consideration of SB0613 – Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program. We support this bill and we urge a **FAVORABLE** vote from the.

## Endorsing Organizations

350 Baltimore  
350 Montgomery County  
Adat Shalom Climate Action  
Assateague Coastal Trust  
Audubon Naturalist Society  
Casa de Maryland  
Cedar Lane Unitarian  
  Universalist Church  
CHEER  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Chesapeake Climate  
  Action Network Action Fund  
Chesapeake Physicians for  
  Social Responsibility  
Chispa MD  
Clean Air Prince Georges  
Clean Air Prince Georges  
Clean Water Action  
Climate Law & Policy Project  
Climate Parents of Prince  
  Georges  
Climate Reality Montgomery  
  County  
Climate Solutions  
Climate Stewards of  
  Greater Annapolis  
Climate XChange - Maryland  
Coalition For Smarter Growth  
Columbia Association Climate  
  Change  
Concerned Citizens Against  
Industrial CAFOs  
Do The Most Good  
  Montgomery County  
Echotopia  
Elders Climate Action  
Environmental Justice Ministry  
Frack Free Frostburg  
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization  
Greenbelt Climate  
  Action Network

HoCo Climate Action  
Howard County Indivisible  
Howard County Sierra Club  
Interfaith Power and Light, DC,  
  MD, NoVa  
Labor Network for  
  Sustainability  
Laurel Resist  
Maryland Environmental  
  Health Network  
Maryland League of  
  Conservation Voters  
Maryland Legislative  
  Coalition  
Maryland NAACP  
  State Conference,  
Environmental Justice  
  Committee  
Maryland Poor People's  
  Campaign  
MCPS Clean Energy  
  Campaign  
MD Campaign for  
  Environmental Human  
  Rights  
Mid-Atlantic  
  Ministry of Maryland  
MoCo DCC  
Montgomery Countryside  
  Alliance  
Montgomery County Faith  
  Alliance  
Mountain Maryland  
  Movement  
National Parks Conservation  
  Association  
Nuclear Information &  
  Resource Service

Potomac Conservancy  
  Sustainability Advisory  
  Committee  
Sierra Club, Maryland  
  Chapter  
Strong Future Maryland  
Sunrise Baltimore  
Takoma Park Mobilization  
  Environment Committee  
Talbot Rising  
The Climate Mobilization  
  Montgomery County  
The Nature Conservancy  
Unitarian Universalist  
  Legislative Ministry  
Wicomico NAACP  
WISE