

**Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment**  
**Testimony on: SB 613 - "Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program"**  
**Organization: Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church**  
**Position: Favorable**  
**Hearing Date: February 28, 2022**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

The Environmental Justice Ministry strongly support SB 613 Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program. As a faith community, Unitarian Universalists respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person. SB 613 focus is on the expansion of community solar access to low and moderate-income residents (LMI) by requiring at least 40% of the kilowatt hour output be for LMI subscribers. Further it requires consolidated billing which will facilitate the LMI community 's use. Finally iSB 613 makes the Community Solar Energy Systems Pilot Program permanent beyond the 2024 sunset, providing home-owners, renters, and businesses access with the environmental and price benefits of solar energy. Making a permanent program will allow Marylanders to take advantage of these benefits into the future, without any pause or interruption to the program.

Community solar can be an asset to schools. Schools have large rooftops and lower summer loads when electricity usage is at its highest. School districts can benefit from this by using part of their solar installations as community solar in order to defray the costs to school systems. Examples of school districts already doing so include Issaquah School District, WA, Olympia Community solar has been shown to work, including for school systems around the country and right here in Maryland. We need this legislation enacted to put in place a permanent community solar program in our state.

EJM encourages a **FAVORABLE** report for this important legislation.

Environmental Justice Ministry Team  
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church