



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 23, 2023

SB 613

Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program

Senate Education, Energy, & Environment Committee

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 613 would make permanent the Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Pilot Program, which would require a community solar energy generating system to serve at least 40% of its kilowatt-hour output to low-income and moderate-income subscribers under certain circumstances; authorizing a subscription coordinator to act on behalf of a subscriber organization and alters requirements related to the siting and size of certain community solar energy generating systems projects.

As Pope Francis has written, climate change *“represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day”* (*Laudato Si'*, no. 25), threatening the wellbeing of peoples and the environment. Catholic social teaching envisions a sustainable and authentic human development, where technological solutions respect the principle of integral ecology and consider social, economic and ecological considerations.

Senate Bill 613 aims to address the much-needed investment in renewable energy policies to be set to sustain and achieve a healthy global ecosystem. We encourage discussion around the components and goals outlined in this legislation and hope they are a catalyst for positive social and ecological outcomes.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 613.

