



Sunrun¹ submits this written testimony in support of SB 143 - Electricity – Net Energy Metering – Accrual of Net Excess Generation (Net Metering Flexibility Act). There are currently about 3.5 million residential solar facilities in the United States, with about 89,000 in Maryland. Said another way, Maryland is above the national average of solar installations per capita but falls behind the leading states of California, Hawaii, and New Jersey.²

Net metering has been the most effective and important policy for supporting private investment in rooftop solar to encourage homeowners to install solar to meet their own needs for electricity and provide a full retail credit for any power that is sent back to the grid. Net metering is available statewide until the aggregate capacity of all net-metered systems reaches 3,000 MW. This limit was raised from 1,500 MW by SB 407/HB 569 in 2021.³ The Public Service Commission reported in its annual *Report on the Status of Net Energy Metering In the State of Maryland* that the current level of installed capacity, approximately 1,033 megawatts (“MW”), is 34.4 percent of the eligible State cap of 3,000 MW. Maryland has one of the best net metering policies in the country, from Sunrun’s customers’ perspective, and SB 143 moves the state in the direction of national best practices, giving customers more options of how to maximize the economic benefit of their solar facilities.

There are a couple of good reasons to make these improvements at this time:

- Spiking demand has driven gas prices higher, with utility rates going up nationally;
- Utility investments to modernize the aging electric infrastructure will result in rate hikes;
- Ambitious solar energy goals offer the opportunity to reconsider net metering;
- The Inflation Reduction Act is spurring investment in electrification technologies such as heat pumps and EVs; there will be a transformation in how electricity is consumed;
- Rooftop solar can help relieve some of the demand on the grid; and,
- The indefinite rollover provisions of SB 143 provide comfort that a customer that sizes a solar facility in anticipation of increased future electric usage will be able to utilize the full value of any credits in future years when usage increases.

Net metering is one of the few tools customers have to take control and manage their electric costs by installing and utilizing rooftop solar for part or all of their needs. SB 143 is a modest step in the right direction, but one that is necessary to improve the customer experience and to encourage more Marylanders to embrace solar as a solution. Sunrun urges a favorable report of SB 143.

¹ Sunrun is the leading provider of solar and storage services in the United States with nearly 800,000 customers nationally including tens of thousands throughout Maryland.

² <https://solarpower.guide/solar-energy-insights/states-most-solar-installations>

³ <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0407/?ys=2021rs>