



February 27, 2023

To: House Economic Matters Committee

Re: Senate Bill 0613, Electricity- Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program- Favorable

Dear Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee of the Maryland General Assembly:

My name is John Miller. I live at 10533 Dorchester Way in Woodstock, Howard County, Maryland. I represent Chaberton Energy, a local Maryland based renewable energy developer with offices at 11900 Parklawn Drive, Suite 406, North Bethesda, Maryland, as well as the Chesapeake Solar and Storage Association (CHESSA), which represents over 120 member companies doing business in Maryland and the Mid Atlantic. Chaberton Energy was built upon the framework that the State set up with the Community Solar Pilot Program. In three years, we have grown and now employ 27 people, with 12 people located in Maryland. I relocated to Maryland for this role.

I have worked in solar energy for nearly 14 years, doing residential, commercial, utility scale, and for the last 7 years Community Solar. I feel very strongly that Community Solar is the absolute best way to deliver solar energy and savings directly to residents. Community Solar has the ability to impact almost everybody- essentially, as long as they have a Utility Bill they can participate.

The Projects we develop deliver real and tangible benefits to your constituents, the residents of Maryland. We are able to save homeowners an average of \$150 per year on their utility costs; Each Community Solar project supports well over \$2.5M in savings for subscribers. These savings increase even more for Low to Moderate Income subscribers. As an industry, we support ensuring the benefits of solar energy flow to those who need it most. The energy bill savings we can offer to LMI subscribers provide a necessary lifeline to those struggling with increased energy costs. We are very excited about the benefits that will flow to the Low to Moderate Income communities from Community Solar as a result of this bill. Quite simply, this bill will provide energy equity in an incredibly efficient and impactful way.

These projects also support Maryland by delivering additional tax revenue to the County and the State; each project will deliver hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not over a million dollars, in tax revenue, all while no requiring any local services or costs. While delivering tangible financial benefits, these projects also provide significant environmental benefits to support Maryland's efforts to being a leader on climate change. A typical project, which would be 2MWac, offsets carbon emissions by ~3,700 tons of CO₂ per year, compared with electricity generated from traditional sources. This is equal to the emissions of over 3.7M pounds of coal burned, over 3.8M miles driven by gasoline powered cars and is equal to the same amount a carbon captured by nearly 4,000 acres of local forests. That is all for a single project! The overall impacts the Permanent Program would have on the environment are immense.



We have carefully crafted co location language into this bill to allow for projects to be sited in ways which most efficiently deliver on the benefits of Community Solar. It will encourage development on preferred sites, for low to moderate income subscribers, and for the widespread adoption of sustainable agrivoltaic practices.

Community Solar is about more than the financial and environmental benefits; it is also about land preservation, landowner rights, free market competition for electricity, and energy choice for all Marylanders.

In order to keep building on the successes of Maryland, and to keep fostering jobs for a strong local economy, stimulating tax revenue, saving the people of Maryland money on their energy bills, supporting energy equity to Low to Moderate income residents, and providing energy choice to all residents, it is imperative that the Community Solar program is extended through SB 0613.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Miller
John Miller
Chaberton Energy