



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 21, 2023

SB 469

Task Force to Study Solar Tax Incentives

Senate Budget & Taxation 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 469 establishes a Task Force to Study Solar Tax Incentives. The task force must study and make recommendations regarding a tax strategy that is more competitive than the State's current strategy to (1) maximize the installation of rooftop solar panels; (2) facilitate and promote installation of grid-connected generation of renewable energy; and (3) meet the State's renewable energy goals. Members of the task force may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations. The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) must provide staff for the task force, and the Director of MEA must designate its chair. The task force is required to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by December 15, 2023.

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 469 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 469.