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March 29, 2023

**SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS - SB469: Task Force to Study Solar Tax Incentives**

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports SB469: Task Force to Study Solar Tax Incentives, and thanks Senator Elfreth for her leadership on this issue.

In 2019, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Clean Energy Jobs Act, which set a target of advancing our state's Renewable Portfolio Standard to reach 50% renewable energy by the year 2030. Governor Moore has furthered this goal by committing to 100% clean energy generation in Maryland by the year 2035. These ambitious goals are achievable only through continued bold action by this body. It also will require thoughtful consideration of the tools available to the state that can be brought to bear to reach those goals. SB469 seeks to contribute to this goal by creating a task force to study the solar industry and the tax incentives that can be offered to support the development of a competitive industry.

Maryland LCV strongly supports this goal, and offers amendments encouraging this committee to broaden the charge of the task force to consider not just tax incentives, but other incentives available to the state, including the cost of Solar Renewable Energy Credits and the potential distribution of resources from the fund supported by alternative compliance payments for non-attainment of the goals outlined by the Clean Energy Jobs Act. By examining the needs of different sectors within the solar industry, and all available incentives and financing opportunities, including examining examples from other states, the task force may create a plan that will allow Maryland to better become a more competitive market for solar energy generation.

Below are recommendations for amendments to broaden the task force membership and mission, which we offer for consideration by this committee. We would be pleased to work with through their discussions of this legislation, but encourage swift action on moving this legislation to the Governor's desk.

Maryland LCV strongly urges a favorable report on SB469.

- Amend Title, remove “tax”
- (a) (9) (i) ~~one~~ **TWO** representative**S** designated by the Maryland Minority Contractors Association
- (a) (11) four representatives of the solar energy industry, appointed by the Governor including:
  - (i) ~~at least one~~ representatives with a history of working with solar panels installed on **RESIDENTIAL** rooftops
  - (ii) ~~at least one~~ representatives with a history of working with solar panels installed on the ground; ~~and~~
  - (iii) at least one representative with a history of working with community solar energy generation; **AND**
  - (iv) **AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE WITH A HISTORY OF WORKING WITH AGGREGATE NET METERING ENERGY GENERATION**
- (a) (12) **TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY GROUPS**
- (a) (13) **ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM AN ORGANIZATION WITH A HISTORY OF WORKING WITH LOW AND MODERATE INCOME SOLAR CONSUMERS**
- (g) The task force shall study and make recommendations regarding **AN INCENTIVE** ~~tax~~ strategy that is more competitive than the State’s current strategy to maximize the installation of ~~rooftop solar panels and community solar energy generating systems,~~ **RESIDENTIAL SOLAR, COMMERCIAL SOLAR, AND COMMUNITY SOLAR GENERATING SYSTEMS, AND SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS IN THE STATE THAT ARE LOCATED ON PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED PROPERTY NOT TARGETED FOR MITIGATION OR RESTORATION, INCLUDING ROOFTOPS, PARKING CANOPIES, BROWNFIELDS, AND ENERGY OR TRANSPORTATION RIGHTS OF WAYS**, to facilitate and promote installation for grid-connected generation of renewable energy, and to meet the state’s renewable energy goals. Recommendations may include tax incentive structures, **AS WELL AS OTHER FINANCIAL INCENTIVES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE**