

**Testimony in Support The GREEN Act
SB 169
Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
1/16/2024**

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On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report on SB169, the GREEN Act.

Maryland is missing our in-state solar energy generation mandates. In 2022 Maryland was required to meet 5.5% of our electricity consumption through in-state solar generation. However, the state only met 3% of our electricity needs from in-state solar generation that year, missing 45% of the mandate. While Maryland's solar generation is growing every year, and even getting 3% from solar is a tremendous achievement, we need to be building solar faster.

Cost is no longer the barrier to building solar. Solar energy is the cheapest bulk energy source available. Siting is now the biggest barrier to deploying solar quickly. The Maryland state legislature should enact comprehensive solar siting reform to make it easier to build large scale solar projects in more places. At the same time, Maryland must also be incentivizing solar on rooftops wherever possible.

A current gap in our incentive structure is for the roofs of nonprofits. As mission driven organizations, many non-profits would like to put solar on their rooftops. However, many lack the access to capital to make the investment in putting solar on their roofs. The GREEN Act will help nonprofits in Maryland to gain access to zero interest loans for solar panels.

By deploying more solar on rooftops the GREEN Act will lower energy costs, reduce air pollution, increase Maryland's energy independence, and help the state meet its climate mandates. We urge a favorable report.

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