



**Bill: HB 258 – RENEWABLE ENERGY – CUSTOMER-SITED SOLAR PROGRAM**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of CI Renewables, a commercial and industrial solar development company operating in Maryland and a member of the MD Solar Task Force, I am writing to express our support for this legislation.

This bill establishes the customer-sited solar program within the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), to begin on November 1, 2024. Under the program, MEA will award grants to eligible customer-generators, to be funded through the Strategic Energy Investment Fund. Eligible recipients include verified low- to moderate-income individuals, or those located in a low- to moderate-income community, an overburdened community, or an underserved community. Non-income-verified individuals outside designated communities are also eligible for smaller grants.

HB 258 presents a significant step forward in promoting sustainability, incentivizing renewable energy development, and fostering economic growth and workforce development in our state. Incentives for rooftop solar development will promote projects in sites that do not require lengthy siting or permitting processes, and do not require the use of undeveloped land.

We are aware that the sponsor, the sponsor, MEA, and relevant industry representatives are in discussions for some moderate changes to the bill. CI supports these discussions and believes that the result will create a better outcome. Specifically, we think it is crucial that there is enough room in the program to continue the car canopy grant program. Most agree that over a surface parking lot is the ideal place for a solar energy array, but they are prohibitively expensive. This grant program shrinks and, in some cases, eliminates the margin so that we can build more canopies.

This program will also increase access to solar for Marylanders who have not been able to afford these systems. In turn, grant recipients will save money on their utility bills. For these reasons, we urge you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

*Joshua Feldmark*

Joshua Feldmark  
Senior Vice President  
CI Renewables