

SB1082\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
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**TESTIMONY ON SB#/1082 – FAVORABLE**  
**Solar Energy and Energy Storage - Development and State Procurement**

**TO:** Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#1082, Solar Energy and Energy Storage - Development and State Procurement**

Maryland has an ambitious program to reduce the use of fossil fuels to ameliorate the effects of climate change in our state. Solar power can be an important source for renewable energy, but requires land for solar farms. This bill is an attempt to promote and increase the use of solar power in Maryland while ensuring that agricultural land, used for that solar farm, also can still be productive agriculturally.

This will create, in Maryland's Power Plant Research Program, a commission charged with providing recommendation on solar energy development and land conservation. It will make the use of land for solar energy also be used to support certain crops with a vegetation plan a requirement a part of the solar farm establishment.

Fixing the problem and moving towards Maryland clean energy goals requires a plan to do so and the means to make it happen. This bill makes the movement to solar power a more comprehensive choice with increased viability. It is a commonsense solution to move Maryland forward.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#1082.**