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RE: SB 434 – Empowering New Energy Resources and Green Initiatives Toward a Zero-Emission (ENERGIZE) Maryland Act

Favorable

Chair Feldman and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

The Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) provides this written testimony regarding Senate Bill (SB) 434. CCSA's position on this legislation is Favorable.

CCSA is a national, business-led trade organization, composed of over 100 member companies, that works to expand access to clean, local, affordable energy nationwide through the development of robust community solar programs. Community solar projects involve medium-scale solar facilities that are shared by multiple community subscribers who receive credit on their electricity bills for their share of the power produced.

CCSA has been an active participant in the development and implementation of Maryland's community solar pilot program, and we are grateful to this Committee and to Governor Wes Moore and his Administration for supporting the passage of SB 613 in 2023, which made community solar a permanent solution in Maryland. Thanks to SB 613, community solar can play a critical role in helping the state meet its energy requirements while also ensuring electricity cost savings reach those that need it most, as projects must allocate at least 40% of capacity for low-and-moderate income customers.

SB 434 would support the sustained growth of community solar and other renewable energy technologies in Maryland. It's responsive to the region's rapidly rising energy demand and the importance of long-term market certainty in driving clean energy deployment. It would also address shortcomings associated with Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

CCSA appreciates the Moore Administration for supporting solar power and for its dedication to solving the challenges associated with Maryland's energy needs. CCSA is supporting several proposals this session aimed at providing energy solutions for Maryland, including incentive levels and siting barriers specific to community solar. We look forward to continuing to work with the Administration and this Committee on these critical issues.

CCSA urges a favorable report on SB 434.

Sincerely,

Charlie Coggeshall
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