

Senator Brian J. Feldman

Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB434

Dear Chair Feldman,

Solar Landscape supports SB434, sponsored by Senate President Ferguson and Senators Brooks, Ellis, and Watson. This bill advances Maryland's clean energy goals by encouraging solar development for all market sectors, particularly on commercial and industrial rooftops. **We respectfully urge a favorable report.**

Founded in 2012, Solar Landscape has brought the benefits of solar energy to more low- and moderate-income households than any other community solar developer nationwide. We specialize in commercial and industrial rooftop solar, partnering with real estate owners in Maryland, New Jersey, Illinois, and beyond. Nationwide, we have leased or have exclusive rights to over 150 million square feet of commercial and industrial rooftops, including space for over 50 community solar projects in Maryland. We are committed to helping Maryland achieve its renewable energy targets and advancing energy equity.

Maryland aims for 14.5% of its electricity to come from solar by 2030, yet deployment has lagged due to issues with the Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) market and other policy challenges. Since 2018, installation rates for small and medium solar projects, particularly those under 5MW, have fallen short. The decline in Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP) values, and by extension SREC values, threatens the viability of solar on commercial and industrial rooftops. These projects, with simpler interconnection and permitting processes, can be permitted and built in approximately a year. They are essential to meeting Maryland's near-term clean energy goals.

SB434 provides a critical solution: extending the 14.5% solar requirement to 2035 and "freezing" the ACP at \$60. This ensures SRECs remain valued at a level that incentivizes commercial/industrial rooftop solar development, particularly community solar, which delivers energy savings to Marylanders, including low- and moderate-income households. Supporting these projects saves families money, preserves open space, creates family sustaining jobs (i.e., 500 MWs of community solar equates to roughly 4-million-man hours of work) and is simply common sense.

Passing SB434 demonstrates a commitment to sustainability, job creation, and economic relief for Maryland's most vulnerable residents. We commend the Moore-Miller administration's leadership on clean energy and look forward to working together to ensure energy access for all Marylanders.

For questions, please contact Jason Weintraub at (410) 963-3674 or jweintraub@gfrlaw.com.