



Maryland General Assembly
House Economic Matters Committee
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Testimony of Alexandra Wyatt
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GRID Alternatives

HB 1262, Maryland Electricians Act - Revisions
Sponsor: Senator Pinsky
Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1262, to revise the Maryland Electricians Act. My name is Alexandra Wyatt and I am Policy Director and Legal Counsel for GRID Alternatives, the nation's largest nonprofit solar installer. Our affiliate GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic (GRID Mid-Atlantic) operates in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, providing solar job training and no-cost solar installations to underserved and low-income customers. GRID Mid-Atlantic offers these comments in support of a small but important amendment proposed by the Chesapeake Solar and Storage Association (CHESSA), of which we are a member.

GRID Mid-Atlantic's mission is to build community-powered solutions to advance economic, environmental, and climate justice through renewable energy. We envision a rapid, equitable transition to a world powered by renewable energy that benefits everyone. To achieve that transition, GRID Mid-Atlantic works exclusively with low-income and underserved communities to bring them the many benefits of solar and other clean energy technologies. These benefits include access to hands-on job training opportunities in fulfilling renewable energy careers, as well as lower energy burdens, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and a cleaner, healthier environment.

GRID Mid-Atlantic is concerned that imposing a new requirement for an on-site electrician for the entirety of small residential solar photovoltaic installation projects, even during the portions of the installation that occur well before electrical connection, will unduly burden our ability to provide the environmental benefits, training opportunities, and bill savings from solar to clients in Maryland. We operate safely without this requirement in neighboring jurisdictions and elsewhere around the country. This requirement would significantly add to labor costs without any increase in safety. As a result of such cost increases, we would be able to do fewer installations in the state, as well as less training, ultimately bringing fewer people into electrical careers. GRID Mid-Atlantic therefore supports CHESSA's proposal for a more appropriately tailored application of the on-site requirement to residential solar.

Thank you again for this opportunity to offer testimony on this important piece of legislation, and for your leadership in ensuring that Maryland's clean energy future can benefit all Maryland residents.