



**Before the General Assembly of the State of Maryland  
House Economic Matters Committee  
February 4, 2021**

**Testimony of David W. Murray  
Executive Director  
Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association  
HB 419: Economic Development - Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation  
Investments and Initiatives**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 569. I serve as Executive Director of the Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association, CHESSA, formerly known as the Maryland-DC-Virginia Solar Energy Industries Association (MDV-SEIA). CHESSA is the local trade association representing over 4,500 solar installers, developers, manufacturers, and other solar workers in Maryland. Our members also provide energy storage solutions to households, businesses, schools, local governments, and utilities throughout the region. CHESSA is a recognized state affiliate of the Solar Energy Industries Association.

I am writing to request your favorable support for House Bill 419: Economic Development - Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation Investments and Initiatives. As a representative of the solar industry, I have confidence that the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) and the Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator (MEIA) are key tools to encourage the successful adoption of clean energy and storage technology.

MCEC provides significant value to my association members by providing innovative finance and technical expertise. By identifying key market gaps and leveraging capital to close them, MCEC has the capability and flexibility to do what the public sector cannot and the private sector will not. MCEC successfully facilitates partnerships and relationships to create business and employment opportunities. To date, MCEC has leveraged private investment at ratio of approximately 10 to 1 for every public dollar spent, to succeed at its statute directed mission. This includes advancing adoption of clean energy and energy efficiency products, services, and innovative new technologies which support thousands of jobs in Maryland.

I personally have enjoyed working with Kathy Magruder, Pamela Powers, and Sabrina Bachmann at industry conferences, webinars, presentations, and other forums to convene Maryland's diverse and robust clean energy industry.

For this success to continue MCEC must have a stable definitive commitment of revenue to help support its operation, and signal to project partners and capital providers that they can predictably count on MCEC for investment transactions. This legislation calls for such a commitment, we believe is a worthy investment.

Your consideration and favorable support of SB 460 and HB 419 will be much appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.



Sincerely,

David Murray  
Executive Director  
Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association (CHESSA, formerly MDV-SEIA)