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Prince George's County

Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,
Information Technology and Biotechnology

Judiciary Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB0584 – Public Utilities – Net Energy Metering

Good Afternoon to the Honorable Chair and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

I would like to start off by thanking you all for the opportunity to introduce House Bill 0584. This bill seeks to increase the maximum generation capacity of an electric generating system that may be used by an eligible customer-generator for net metering. By raising the maximum generation capacity on aggregate net metering systems, owners of solar array panels can receive credits towards its own energy bills. This is utilized by local jurisdictions throughout our state to increase the utility of renewable energy as well as save on the massive costs associated with energy bills. In Maryland, there is a cap on the total amount of energy that can be subject to net metering and there are also caps on the individual systems generating the solar energy towards the statewide cap. The total statewide cap is 1,500 megawatts and according to the Public Service Commission, we have currently reached a little over half of the overall cap. For individual systems, net metering may not exceed 2.0 megawatts.

This bill would increase the permissible size of individual systems from 2.0 megawatts to 5.0 megawatts. It is incredibly important for local jurisdictions to have access to a higher threshold so that it may get credit for the energy it is storing against its utility bills. This bill also hopes to limit the ability of the Public Service Commission to prevent a local government from constructing or operating multiple net metered solar energy generating facilities on separate lots owned by that local government; without regard to whether those lots abut, simply because the capacity of the net metering system exceeds the limit.

By passing this bill we would ultimately be facilitating Maryland's further economic growth, encouraging investment from the private sector in areas for renewable energy sources, and further diversifying the energy resources at our disposal. **For these reasons, I ask for a favorable report on House Bill 0584.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron L. Watson".

Delegate Ron L. Watson
Prince George's County