



Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Amend SB 762

2-26-21

Dear Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

As a Maryland business owner, I want to share a significant concern with the Maryland Electricians Act and its impact on the rooftop solar industry. We employ more than 40 Marylanders, and we have installed solar on well over 1000 homes and businesses in Maryland. While the legislation is primarily focused on statewide licensure, there is a provision that places a burdensome requirement on companies like ours. On Page 29, lines 7-9, the Maryland Electricians Act requires a Master Electrician or Journeyperson to be onsite for the provision of electrical services. Thus, he or she will need to be present for the entirety of a solar installation, even for activities such as mounting a racking system or installing panels up on a roof. This work does not require the experience of a Master Electrician or Journeyperson. In fact, Master Electricians and Journeypersons are not trained in much of the solar installation process, and they would be overpaid for the skills required, even if we could recruit them to participate in this work. Most Master Electricians or Journeypersons would object if assigned to participate in rooftop solar installation on a pitched roof.

With over 65,000 solar installs in Maryland to date, there is no evidence this bill is necessary for solar installations. It is very clear that it would slow our ability to provide solar to customers and it would increase costs to the homeowner. We estimate this bill could cost our company more than \$500 per residential installation, a cost that would be passed on to the homeowner, degrading the economics and consumer demand.

Additionally, I fear this bill will cause an artificial labor shortage as we would need to retain additional Journeypersons to support this unnecessary requirement.

Without the amendment, this bill would slow residential solar deployment and make it more expensive.

We hope that Maryland avoids this issue by adopting the Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association's proposed amendment. The amendment:



Page 29, Line 9: Add the following:

AT LEAST ONE LICENSED MASTER ELECTRICIAN OR
JOURNEYPERSON ELECTRICIAN SHALL BE PRESENT AT EACH JOB SITE IN WHICH
ELECTRICAL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED, **"EXCEPT FOR ACCESSORY-USE
PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS FEWER THAN TWO HUNDRED KILOWATTS
OF TOTAL CAPACITY."**

The solar industry has been a reliable provider of good paying jobs in Maryland over the last decade. We have had little to no safety incidents and have an excellent track record for consumer value and satisfaction. Please consider our amendment to insure we do not add an unnecessary burden to this promising industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick Peters
President & CEO
Solar Energy Services, Inc.