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Good afternoon Chairman Kaiser, Vice Chairman Washington & distinguished members of the committee.

My name is John Olszewski Sr. My company OK Strategies represents Summit Ridge Energy. We are here in support of Vice Chairman Washington's bill # HB 954.

This legislation will allow the property owner to avoid an increase in their tax assessment based on an installation of community solar panels on their rooftops and carports. This will in no way affect the process how the building will be assessed otherwise.

Right now, owners of commercial buildings shy away from these clean energy producing panels because it causes their building assessment to increase. This past summer, Governor Hogan convened a task force to discuss Renewable Energy Development and Siting in order to find ways to reduce greenhouse gases by 40% of 2006 levels by 2030. Some of the goals produced by the task force was to preserve prime agriculture land, develop incentive programs, expand rooftop solar projects and encourage low-income and moderate income

(LIMI) customers to take advantage of cheaper Community Solar generated power.

We believe this legislation will address many of these task force recommendations and will help reduce our carbon footprint. In a time where Covid-19 is putting companies out of business and citizens are on the verge of having to pay high overdue energy bills, cheaper community solar power will give them another option for affordable energy savings as well as give the businesses in dire need of help an opportunity to survive.

In my opinion, this legislation will create revenue for the local governments and help the economy recover by incentivizing owners to install these panels which in turn will increase revenue through the permitting process.

In conclusion, the buildings will still be paying their property taxes as usual, employers will be able to retain their workforce and buildings will be active instead of vacant. This legislation will be a tool to incentivize business owners to install solar panels on their rooftops and carports.

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