



16 February 2021

Ways and Means Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: HB 954 – Property Tax – Solar Energy Systems**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

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

My name is Nate Greenberg, Vice President at Summit Ridge Energy. We are here in support of Vice Chairman Washington's legislation, HB 954.

Summit Ridge Energy develops, owns, and operates community solar projects around the nation. We are one of the leaders in the Maryland community solar market. Of our 16 Maryland community solar projects with reserved capacity in the program, we are working in earnest to develop 11 of those on industrial rooftops. This includes a project that if built will be not only the largest rooftop community solar project in the United States, but one of the top ten largest rooftop solar projects around the world, right here in Maryland. Summit Ridge Energy is making a real effort to follow the guidance laid out by last year's Governor's Task Force on Solar Siting, and to develop more community solar projects on rooftops.

These projects are not without their challenges though. High rent rates and lower system production put them at a disadvantage to ground-mounted solar projects. Construction costs are often higher than solar projects built on the ground. Building owners are often hesitant to host these systems for fear the additional rental income could increase their building property taxes. HB 954 helps ease those barriers to entry and will stimulate strong growth of the Maryland rooftop community solar market.

As word spreads among building owners that leasing their roofs to community solar projects is a great way to earn additional rental income on otherwise unusable space, especially after the tough year so many had in 2020, the demand to host these projects continues to increase exponentially. Unfortunately, the tax uncertainty surrounding these kinds of projects is a major barrier to development. The passage of HB 954 puts Maryland in a position to capture this demand and catapult itself to being one of the leading rooftop community solar markets in the country.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Greenberg", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left.

Nathan Greenberg  
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