

**Testimony in Support of
SB0683
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
March 2, 2022**

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Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund**

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I strongly urge a favorable report on SB 0683.

Mission driven non-profits overwhelmingly want to install solar panels, but also mostly lack access to upfront capital. SB 0683 would provide the money for nonprofits to put solar panels on their buildings. Nonprofits would repay the loan in full, so the state would not lose money through this program. This is a win-win-win.

This bill should go into effect on July 1, 2023 in order to give MEA time to design and launch the application process. MEA shall establish guidelines and considerations for application, selection, and repayment that include:

- Nonprofits that own--rather than rent-- their buildings;
- Property size/kilowatt-hours used;
- Geographic diversity;
- Ethnic/racial diversity;
- Economic diversity;
- Mission diversity;
- Access to the required matching funds indicated above; and
- Process and frequency of loan repayment.

Our vital nonprofit organizations deserve the chance to reduce their utility bills and carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Best,
Jamie

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