



Timothy R. Troxell, CEcD
Advisor, Government Affairs
301-830-0121
ttroxell@firstenergycorp.com

10802 Bower Avenue
Williamsport, MD 21795

OPPOSE – House Bill 0818
HB0818 – Community Solar Utility Consolidated Billing
Economic Matters Committee
Thursday, February 24, 2022

Potomac Edison, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., serves approximately 275,000 customers in all or parts of seven Maryland counties (Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington Counties). FirstEnergy is dedicated to safety, reliability, and operational excellence. Its ten electric distribution companies form one of the nation's largest investor-owned electric systems, serving customers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Maryland.

Unfavorable

Potomac Edison **opposes House Bill 818 – Community Solar Utility Consolidated Billing**. HB 818 would allow a community solar subscriber organization to participate in utility consolidated billing, provided by the electric company.

FirstEnergy requests an Unfavorable report on HB 818 for the following reasons.

In 2015, the Maryland General Assembly required the Public Service Commission to create the Community Solar Energy Generating System Pilot Program. Potomac Edison has been an active participant in the program since its inception.

Since the pilot program is nearing its conclusion, at this point it seems unnecessary for HB 818 to force electric utilities to drastically change their existing supplier consolidated billing systems. Maintaining and processing community solar supplier credits and establishing purchase of receivables protocols and other processes would require significant time and necessitate additional investments to our systems. The July 1, 2022, implementation date to change our billing system is unachievable, and the cost/benefit of doing such this close to the end of the pilot program seems wasteful.

Potomac Edison broadly supports a climate strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the integration of renewable energy on the electric grid, however changing the pilot program at this point appears unworkable. HB 818 will result in higher costs for all electric utility customers in Maryland.

For the above reasons, Potomac Edison respectfully request an **Unfavorable** vote on House Bill 818.