

HB1261 Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Pilot Program - Alterations
Economic Matters Committee
Maryland Senate
444th Session of the General Assembly
March 10, 2022
Position: Favorable

Testimony of Arcadia on HB1261

Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and esteemed members of the Economic Matters Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation. Below is an introduction to Arcadia and an overview of our support for this legislation.

Introduction to Arcadia

Arcadia is building the software that's necessary for Marylanders to realize the full benefits of clean energy. Today, customers face a bewildering assortment of energy technologies – ranging from energy efficiency and renewable energy to battery storage and electric vehicles – all of which have unique capabilities, costs, and user experiences. Arcadia's software makes it possible for energy technology providers to delight their customers and move clean energy forward by enabling simple user experiences that will save people money. The first industry served with Arcadia's software is community solar, where Arcadia manages more than 54 MW across 28 projects in Maryland and more than 500 MW nationwide, making it the largest community solar subscriber manager in the country.

Support for this legislation

As the CSEGS program exists in Maryland today, a household interested in community solar may only subscribe to a project located in their own utility service territory and is prohibited from subscribing to a project located in another territory. This is problematic because the supply of projects and the demand from customers are not evenly matched in every territory. As such, in some territories, like Pepco, there is an overabundance of interested customers who must join a waitlist before they can subscribe to a project, and in Potomac Edison, you have projects but not as many interested subscribers. So, any interested household in Potomac Edison can join a project today, but those in Pepco do not have the same ability.

This legislation will allow the statewide demand for projects to meet the statewide supply of projects and would allow all households in the state to have equal access to community solar, so they can support solar development and receive monthly bill savings.

This policy exists in other advanced community solar markets

Massachusetts has allowed for CUC in its NEM community solar program, and two other utilities are required to allow SMART community solar credits to transfer between their territories, and active legislation would broaden that to NationalGrid as well.

Conclusion

Arcadia asks for a favorable report on HB1261. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me at James.Feinstein@arcadia.com or 202 999 8916 if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,



James Feinstein
Senior Policy Manager
Arcadia