



**Favorable with Amendments**  
**House Bill 708**  
**Comprehensive Climate Solutions**

**Environment and Transportation Committee**

Honorable Kumar Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation  
House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Solar and Storage Association (CHESSA), thank you for the opportunity to issue our **support with amendments** to House Bill 708. The impact of climate change can no longer be debated. The causes are numerous and, therefore, the solution must be comprehensive. CHESSA believes HB 708 represents the comprehensive solution that Maryland needs to address climate change through taking aggressive actions to reduce greenhouse gas reductions. However, CHESSA does believe the legislation can be stronger in reliance on solar energy as a path to meeting the bill's objectives.

There are several provisions specific to the solar industry that CHESSA strongly supports that are contemplated in Senate Bill 528 and we would urge the Environment and Transportation to consider these additions to House Bill 708:

- Requiring electric ready standards in new buildings that ensures they are ready for installation of solar energy systems
- Waiving county and municipal personal property tax incentives for certain community solar projects that serve low- and moderate-income households
- Requiring State facilities to procure 75% of their energy supply from low-carbon sources, including solar, by 2030
- Convening stakeholders to discuss new opportunities for workforce training in renewable energy, especially targeting those underrepresented in the industry.

Additionally, CHESSA would like to offer one corrective amendment. CHESSA was formerly known as MDV-SEIA but recently changed its name to better reflect our organization scope.

**Amendment**

**Amendment No. 1**

On page 12, in line 12, strike "~~MARYLAND-DC-DELAWARE-VIRGINIA SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRIES~~" and replace with "**CHESAPEAKE SOLAR AND STORAGE**"

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Submitted by:

Stephanie Johnson, Executive Director