



Committee: Finance

Testimony on: SB110 - Electricity - Community Solar Energy Generation Systems- Generating Capacity

Organization: Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition

Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 1, 2022

Dear M. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB110. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB110.

Community solar projects are a critical component to meeting Maryland's climate goals and targets because they provide renewable energy to families and building owners that cannot otherwise install or afford solar energy and because such projects increase the amount of clean, renewable energy on the grid. This bill would more than double the allowable generating capacity of community solar projects by increasing the current cap from 2 megawatts to 5 megawatts.

Anyone who receives an electric bill can benefit from community solar including renters, residents in multi-unit buildings, municipalities, nonprofits and businesses that don't own their roofs. Community solar succeeds in delivering clean, renewable energy and typically does so at costs less than standard offer service rates.

Further, many community solar projects are designed for low and moderate income households and deliver the energy at rates 20 - 25% below utilities standard offer rates. Thus, community solar is a significant aspect of energy justice for these families.

Energy is also a substantial cost for building owners and managers, so the availability of low cost community solar is an important means of preserving affordable housing.

In short, increasing the generating capacity of community solar projects is good for the environment and good for families.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report for SB110.

MLC Climate Justice Wing:

Assateague Coastal Trust
Maryland Legislative Coalition
MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
WISE
Frack Free Frostburg
Mountain Maryland Movement
Clean Water Action
Howard County Indivisible
Howard County Sierra Club
Columbia Association Climate Change and Sustainability Advisory Committee
HoCo Climate Action
CHEER
Climate XChange - Maryland
Mid-Atlantic Field Representative/
National Parks Conservation Association
350 Montgomery County
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Audubon Naturalist Society
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Environmental Justice Ministry
Coalition For Smarter Growth
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
MCPS Clean Energy Campaign
MoCo DCC
Potomac Conservancy
Casa de Maryland

Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Clean Air Prince Georges
Laurel Resist
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Unitarian Universalist Legislative
Ministry of Maryland
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs
Wicomico NAACP
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Chispa MD
Climate Law & Policy Project
Maryland Poor People's Campaign
Labor Network for Sustainability
The Nature Conservancy
Clean Air Prince Georges
350 Baltimore
Maryland Environmental Health Network
Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis
Talbot Rising
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Mid-Atlantic Earth Holders
Climate Parents of Prince Georges
Echotopia
Maryland NAACP State Conference,
Environmental Justice Committee