



Favorable

February 1, 2022

Senate Finance Committee

Electricity - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Generating Capacity (SB 110)

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB110/HB0440. My name is John Finnerty, I am a Business Development Director at Rockville based Standard Solar Inc. Standard Solar has grown to be leading national financier and developer of distributed generation (DG) and small utility-scale solar projects. During my dozen plus years at Standard Solar I have served six years on the board of directors of Maryland-Virginia-DC Solar Energy Industries Association (MDVSEIA) now CHESSA, and was honored to serve on Governor Hogan's 2019 Renewable Energy Development and Siting Task Force (REDS).

I am here today in support of SB110, expanding community solar project cap to 5MW. This builds on the success of the CS Pilot program, it facilitates additional subscribers and it would raise Maryland to match the same 5MW project cap in many surrounding states.

The Community solar pilot program is successful public policy. The results today and in future are transparent, measurable and effective for statewide economic growth. At Standard we have seen firsthand the positive benefits that CS projects bring to individuals, businesses, and communities.

Our community solar projects to date are serving about 3,000 Maryland households including over 400 LMI subscribers. The projects span statewide in all three Exelon service territories and Potomac Edison. Additional Maryland households and businesses will benefit with the passage of SB110.

In summary we see passage of SB110 will deliver the following benefits to Maryland and its citizens including:

- Advances MD CEJA goals of 14.5% solar by 2030
- Opens more access to Marylanders to participate in solar generation savings that may not have space at their home or facilities for onsite solar
- Projects will have the potential to better utilize brownfield acreage and open parking lots
- Overall cost efficiency of utility interconnections will be improved
- Generate additional bankable long-rent revenue to host property owners
- Continues Maryland energy and technology leadership
- Continues and expands direct investment and jobs growth in Maryland



Standard Solar is active nationally with community solar programs and has co-developed, funded and operates over 120MW of projects in Colorado, Minnesota, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, DC and New York. The Community Solar Pilot results in Maryland mirror the success in many states. The programs have seen rapid acceptance from ratepayers with available project subscriptions selling out quickly and often while designated projects are still in construction.

Community solar is one segment of the solar generation mix in Maryland, including residential, C&I, municipal, and utility scale. It continues to deliver smart value, savings, investment, and revenue to the Maryland economy.

I urge the Committee to support a Favorable vote on SB110.

Thank you,

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