



SUPPORT

Senate Bill 525

Public Utilities - Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards

Finance Committee

February 15, 2022

Honorable Delores Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Kelley, Vice-Chair Feldman, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association (CHESSA), thank you for the opportunity to issue our **SUPPORT** of **Senate Bill 525**, which would establish a Distribution System Planning Workgroup and complement the Public Service Commission's current Distribution System Planning Process.

Distributed energy resources (DERs), such as solar power, play an important role providing power and grid services where they are needed most. However, to meet Maryland's climate goals, distribution grid planning must evolve from a largely closed process (a "black box") to one which allows transparency into system needs, plans for distributed energy resources growth, and ensures that the capabilities of distributed energy resources are fully utilized.

This bill attempts to improve this process by ensuring representative engagement in the distribution grid planning processes. Additionally, this bill directs one-time federal infrastructure funding to support grid improvements, which works in tandem with grant funding from the Department of Energy to support grid modernization.

On behalf of CHESSA, thank you for your support of Maryland's solar industry and we recommend a favorable report on Senate Bill 525.

Submitted by:

Isaac Meyer, Compass Government Relations Partners on behalf of CHESSA