



## TESTIMONY FOR SB0264

### Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Exemption From Energy and Property Taxes

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Elfreth

**Committee:** Ways and Means

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0264 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Community solar is a fantastic way of expanding our solar capacity and allowing residents to take advantage of solar without putting solar panels on their roof. It is particularly critical to get low-to-moderate income households onto solar power, since it is more economical than gas.

However, it is also more expensive to create community solar projects that are on rooftops, parking lots, or other non-permeable surfaces. This requires a lot of negotiation for land in order to build a solar project, when rooftops and parking lots would make more sense and allow for faster expansion of community solar.

This bill would help expand community solar, particularly for low-to-moderate income families by -

- Exempting solar projects from county or municipal personal property tax for community solar projects installed on rooftops, parking lots, roadways, or brownfields which benefit low-to-moderate income households.
- Encouraging solar generation in communities that are burdened by environmental pollutants and helping to provide assistance to low-to-moderate households

This bill will overcome the greater costs associated with developing projects, serve low-income customers, and those that are located on land that has already been developed (rooftops, parking lots, landfills, etc.),

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

