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The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chairman, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller State Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Senate Bill 103- Income Tax – Maryland Residential Solar Investment Tax Credit
FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Maryland Rooftop Solar Coalition (MRSC), I write in support of Senate Bill 103. MRSC is comprised of solar industry businesses operating in Maryland who design, finance, sell and install rooftop solar systems in the State. Our focus on rooftop solar illustrates the fact that residential rooftops are an underutilized asset in promoting the use of solar energy in the State.

Maryland has a long history of legislative support for adding and enhancing the use of renewable sources of energy to the traditional methods of generating and distributing electricity for the citizens of our State. In 2007 we established the first solar renewable energy credit. In 2019, the General Assembly enacted the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA). These are two examples of consistent efforts by the General Assembly and other policy makers to move our energy supply and usage in a sustainable and environmentally friendly direction over a number of years.

Support for this effort among the member of the General Assembly remains strong, and we note that Governor Moore has similarly expressed his support for promotion of renewable energy goals as well.

Senate Bill 103 is one example of a legislative initiative that will advance this policy. The use of tax credits and similar measures by government is a common and effective way to achieve policy goals. We therefore urge the Committee to carefully consider the approach taken in Senate Bill 103.

At the same time, we should advise the Committee that additional legislation will likely be introduced in this General Assembly to promote the use of clean, renewable energy in other ways. As an example, MRSC is working on legislation, currently in bill drafting, that will focus on a solar grant program that has existed under Maryland law for many years. Our intent will be to make the grant both more effective and to broaden the definition of low to moderate income individuals for potential grant recipients. I will be happy to discuss that initiative with any Committee member who wishes additional detail; however, our support for Senate Bill 103 demonstrates that a combination of approaches can achieve our mutual goal.

We wish to thank Senator Ellis for advancing this idea and placing it before you. We respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 103.

Very truly yours,



Bryson F. Popham

cc: Ed Merrick, MRSC