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Date: February 7, 2023
To: Members of the House Committee on Economic Matters
From: Holly Porter, Executive Director
Re: HB 0068 – Net Metering Flexibility Act – **SUPPORT**

Delmarva Chicken Association (DCA) the 1,600-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, processing companies, and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware supports HB 68 and urges a favorable committee report.

Delmarva chicken growers were some of the first in Maryland to widely adopt solar energy. Today, hundreds of small and large on-farm solar operations can be found through Delmarva, particularly on poultry farms. With the cost of traditional sources of energy rising, and the cost of energy index for large scale solar falling by more than 13% in the last few years, this is an economical option for our farmers. Environmentally friendly solar will continue to proliferate across Delmarva, so long as its profitability remains and increases.

However, solar energy is still a major investment for any farmer, and DCA believes that the energy they produce should be theirs to use, no matter the time of year. Most often, when solar energy production is high, use of energy on a poultry farm also increases. This leaves little leeway in the winter months when solar production is low. This is one of the major complaints we hear from farmers who are not able to roll-over their credits. It is also presumably one of the main deterrents for those farmers considering solar energy. By allowing these credits to accumulate, you can increase the profitability of solar energy, and thus expand its use. This is good for the farmer and the environment.

We urge a **favorable** vote on HB 0068.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at porter@dcachicken.com or 302-222-4069 or Grayson Middleton at middleton@dcachicken.com or 410-490-3329.

Sincerely,

Holly Porter
Executive Director