



March 2, 2023

House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Testimony in Support of House Bill 910

Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of Delegate Del Fraser-Hidalgo's House Bill 910 "Energy Storage – Targets and Maryland Energy Storage Program – Establishment."

My name is Nitzan Goldberger and I am the Policy and Business Development Director in the Mid-Atlantic region for New Leaf Energy. New Leaf is a solar and energy storage developer working on both distributed generation and utility-scale projects across the county. We have over 160 employees, with 20 employees in the Mid-Atlantic region.

I applaud the Maryland legislature for taking on the important topic of energy storage in this session. Setting a meaningful energy storage target is the best way to send a strong market signal that will ensure that the infrastructure needed to meet a 21st century grid is built on a timeline that aligns with Maryland's needs. I recognize that many members of this esteemed legislature – and specifically members of this committee – are keenly aware that the market signals and products in PJM are not entirely aligned with the environmental clean energy goals of Maryland and some of its sister PJM states. If we want to ensure that the State of Maryland's aggressive energy and climate goals are supported by resilient and clean infrastructure, we must send that signal by setting an energy storage target and calling for procurement and other energy storage programs.

The Maryland legislature has enacted many of the policies in the energy storage policy toolbox over the last six years. These policies have included a tax incentive program for behind-the-meter energy storage, a cost-benefit study, and a 10 megawatt energy storage pilot intended to test regulatory models that provide the greatest benefits for customers in the State.

While Maryland was one of the first movers on energy storage policies in 2017 when these programs were first passed, there are now 9 states with energy storage targets. These targets span regulated and restructured states, states with RTOs and states without, as well as states in the PJM footprint (New Jersey and Virginia, with a 2,000 MW and 3,100 MW energy storage target, respectively). There has also been significant gigawatt-scale deployment of energy storage across the country. We know from other states that building the programs to meet the



targets is a multi-year effort, and given the trajectory of Maryland's RPS goals, we must start deploying those projects in earnest.

This means that energy storage developers face difficult decisions about where to invest their resources. I can speak for my own company when I say that we need a clear signal that energy storage procurement will take place to begin investing in building out a team and investing the capital in early stage energy storage development.

I thank Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo for his leadership on this important piece of legislation, and I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 910.

Respectfully,

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