

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 27, 2023

RE: Please pass SB0697 establishing the Maryland Energy Storage Program

Dear Chair Feldman,

ECA Solar respectfully submits this testimony in support of SB0697- Targets and Maryland Energy Storage Program, currently before the Maryland State Legislature. The Climate Solutions Act Now of 2022 sets Maryland as a national leader in establishing clean energy targets, achieving a 60% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and economy wide net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. Maryland's bold stance on climate mitigation through these newly established targets set the destination, and the passage of SB0697 will provide a necessary tool in completing the roadmap to get there. Energy storage has become increasingly critical for policy makers and regulators in achieving clean energy and carbon reduction targets, for it allows for greater integration of renewable resources, higher grid efficiency, improved electric supply, and cheaper grid improvements as a non-wires alternative solution. It is the key to unlocking our distributed, clean, energy grid of the future, and the passage of SB0697 is critical to efficiently maximizing the potential of our grid infrastructure and the continued deployment of distributed energy resources.

ECA Solar develops, engineers, installs, and operates large scale solar facilities across the US. ECA Solar takes an institutional approach to the solar energy industry. Our goal is to deploy the highest quality of solar power and energy storage projects to diversify the electric grid, while remaining risk averse and prioritizing safety. We value diversity and creativity to achieve the common goal of making solar energy more accessible to everyone. We're proud to have developed hundreds of acres of ground - mounted solar and over 6 million square feet of rooftop solar in 7 states.

Depending on the use, energy storage provides both significant customer side benefits as well as system wide benefits. On the customer side, storage allows for demand management and energy arbitrage, in addition to increased resiliency for instances of system outages. Storage can also provide grid facing benefits such as peak demand reduction. System peak hours are usually both expensive and dirty, with peaker plants deployed to meet demand. Battery storage increases the flexibility of deploying clean, intermittent resources, allowing grid operators to maximize the efficiency of the grid from both the supply and demand side. Customer side peak shaving combined with renewably charged battery deployments mean lower cost and lower emissions for all.

The establishment of storage targets and the creation of an Energy Storage Program in Maryland is a crucial step towards the decarbonization of the entire economy as the state moves toward a net zero 2045 target. For these reasons, ECA solar files these favorable comments on the passage of SB0697. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at ko@ecasolar.com

Sincerely,

Kaitlin Kelly O'Neill
Director of Policy
ECA Solar