



The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education Energy & Environment Committee
2 West Miller State Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 28, 2023

RE: SB 664 – Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Program - Tier 1 Renewable Sources, Solar Energy Systems, and Alterations - FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

As members of the Maryland Rooftop Solar Coalition, I am writing to express SunPower's support for Senate Bill 664, which would provide grants, loans and other forms of financial assistance to a broad array of solar customers, with a particular focus on low- and moderate-income households.

SunPower has been a leading distributed generation, solar, storage and energy services provider in North America for over 37 years. Of the 440,000 U.S. residential customers, 1,050 of them live in Maryland. In addition, we have a national network of over 850 independent dealers across 48 states employing more than 18,000 people. 27 of those dealers work in the state of Maryland.

If enacted, the impact of SB 664 would result in more solar energy generation and help the state meet its renewable portfolio standard, which calls for 50% of Maryland's energy to come from tier 1 renewable sources, including 14.5% from solar energy. It will be impossible for the state to achieve these renewable energy goals without a vibrant rooftop solar market, and SB 664 directly places the right financial incentives in the right hands to reinvigorate the market.

At the moment, Maryland's rooftop solar market is in jeopardy due to caps that have restricted renewable energy credits from trading at a price commensurate with pure market forces. The CY-21 RPS Annual Report filed last year by the Public Service Commission stated that the significant shortfall in available Solar Renewable Energy Credits directly led to the \$77.1M in alternative compliance payments, which were subsequently transferred to the Strategic Energy Investment Fund. As a result, the state now finds itself short on solar-generated energy, but with an adequate supply of resources in the SEIF to address the need. SB 664 provides an immediate solution to match need with support in an effort to meet the state's energy targets.

A key element of SB 664 is the support for more solar on roofs in low- and moderate-income, overburdened, and underserved communities. This equates to hundreds of homeowners making on average below \$73,000 per year who would have access to clean, reliable solar energy to power their household appliances and heating or cooling needs. The same homeowners would also see the added benefit of savings on their energy bills. Based on performances and demand in previous years, we can realistically expect this vision to go into effect almost immediately.

The indisputable fact is that not nearly enough renewable energy is being generated by solar. SB 664 would remedy this problem with a viable pathway.

I thank Senator Feldman for introducing this legislation and respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 664.

You are welcome to contact me directly at jim.purekal@sunpowercorp.com or 850-723-5859 with questions or for further input.

Sincerely,
Jim Purekal

Manager, Policy & Strategy
SunPower Corporation

cc: Bryson Popham