



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

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Erin Kelly, and I am the Vice President of Residential Operations at Lumina Solar, a locally owned and operated solar company and partner of the Maryland Rooftop Solar Coalition. I am also a former Maryland Energy Administration employee, where I worked directly with the LMI and Mathias Ag grant programs as a grant administrator. Given my background in this field I have seen firsthand the impact that legislation can have on the solar industry and its adoption.

I am here to express my strong support for SB0644, which seeks to expand access to residential solar energy adoption in the state of Maryland. As a concerned citizen and longtime solar industry employee, I care deeply about the environment, our collective future, and the growth of this industry for the greater good. I believe that this legislation is a crucial step in promoting clean energy and making it accessible to our fellow residents.

Passing SB0644 would provide a boost to Maryland's residential solar industry, which has struggled in recent years due to the rise in costs. Despite the many benefits of residential solar, it remains out of reach for many Maryland residents. This bill would help to address this issue by increasing the grant allowance to help low- and moderate-income households cover the costs of installing solar panels. The current programs that are in place fail in meeting their intended results, which perpetuates the renewable energy shortfalls Maryland is seeing.

Currently, the MEA is unable to provide necessary assistance to customers who do not meet the current definition of low income. Overall, while the current structure of the statute may limit MEA's ability to assist all customers in need, the organization may still be able to find ways to provide some level of support and advocate for changes that would allow it to help more Maryland residents install solar.

If this bill does not pass, the only Maryland residents that can afford solar are higher income families because the incentives in place presently are not robust enough to reasonably allow low to moderate income communities to adopt rooftop solar. I fear we will see similar trends continue if legislation does not change.

Additionally, the SACP program is an important tool for promoting the development of solar energy projects in Maryland. However, it is important to ensure that the funds collected through the program are being used effectively to support economically viable solar projects. Solar projects that have the support, involvement and backing of the local community are more likely to be successful and proliferate a positive impact on the community.



Overall, I believe that SB0644 is a crucial piece of legislation for our state. By promoting the use of solar energy and ensuring that everyone has access to its benefits, we can create a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future for Marylanders. I urge you to support this bill and to promote the use and continued adoption of renewable energy in Maryland.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Erin Kelly