

March 5, 2024

Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair
Honorable Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair
Room 231
House Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SUBJECT: House Bill 1046

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, Committee Members, and Delegates:

TurningPoint Energy (TPE) is a national solar development and advisory company that specializes in community solar. We have been participating in the Maryland community solar market since its inception in 2015, and are proud to say we will have over 40MW of projects in operation by the end of 2025. Collectively these projects will have generated over \$12mm in property tax revenue, create over 800 temporary and permanent jobs, and displace the carbon equivalent of 9,479 passenger vehicles. As part of our commitment to community investment, we have committed or given \$274,000 to local community organizations. We would like to think we are just getting started in Maryland!

The HB0440/SB0110 was passed in 2022, growing the community solar system size cap from 2 to 5 MW. Unfortunately, timely deployment of 2-5 MW community solar projects in Maryland is currently hampered by the CPCN approval process. The CPCN process was initially put in place to ensure large, transmission system connected power plants were thoroughly vetted, but is not well suited for a significant quantity of smaller, distribution grid connected systems. This creates unnecessary administrative burden on both developers and the PSC, adding delays and costs which ultimately prevent the development of projects across Maryland.

TPE urges you to support HB 1046, bringing the approval process into alignment with the Permanent Program and allowing 2-5 MW DG projects to be approved in a manner commensurate with their size and impact to the grid.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Salar Naini



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