

Committee: Economic Matters
Testimony: Net Energy Metering Aggregation, Solar Renewable Energy Credits,
and Taxes on Solar Energy Generating Systems
(Brighter Tomorrow Act) (HB 1435/SB 783)
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 7, 2024

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Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, we offer our strong endorsement of House Bill 1435/Senate Bill 783, also known as the Brighter Tomorrow Act. This legislation presents a crucial opportunity to advance our renewable energy infrastructure and refine tax provisions to support renewable energy facilities. By doing so, we can promote sustainable energy practices, encourage greater adoption of solar energy, and stimulate economic growth within our communities.

The Brighter Tomorrow Act serves as a comprehensive strategy aimed at overcoming barriers hindering solar development. This legislation proposes to streamline permitting processes and strategically invest in rooftop, community, and solar projects. Through these initiatives, we can revolutionize solar energy deployment, maximizing its potential across Maryland.

Central to the Brighter Tomorrow Act is the establishment of the Small Solar Energy Generating System Incentive Program. This program will provide certified systems with additional renewable energy credits, incentivizing the development of solar energy projects statewide. By supporting the growth of small-scale solar installations, we can diversify our energy portfolio and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Moreover, the proposed extension of personal property tax exemptions for community solar energy generating system projects and the exemption of nonresidential solar generating systems from certain property taxes are pivotal measures. These incentives will significantly bolster investment in renewable energy infrastructure by alleviating the tax burden on developers, thereby creating a more conducive environment for solar energy installations.

Beyond individual consumers, these tax incentives serve as catalysts for job creation and economic growth within our communities. Increased investment in renewable energy projects will spur demand for skilled labor in installation, maintenance, and manufacturing sectors, strengthening our local workforce and stimulating economic activity.



Furthermore, the provision allowing counties to adapt tax assessments on real property hosting solar energy generating systems demonstrates a proactive commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment for renewable energy development. This flexibility empowers local governments to tailor policies that support private investment in renewable energy infrastructure, ultimately positioning our region as a leader in the transition to a more sustainable energy future.

In conclusion, House Bill 1435/Senate Bill 783 represents a significant step forward in promoting renewable energy adoption and supporting the growth of the solar industry in our state. We urge a favorable finding for this bill, recognizing its potential to benefit our environment, economy, and future generations.

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