



LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

To: Chair Feldman and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Date: February 29, 2024

Re: **SUPPORT SB783 / HB1435 – Renewable Energy – Net Energy Metering Aggregation, Solar Renewable Energy Credits, and Taxes on Solar Energy Generating Systems (Brighter Tomorrow Act)**

TradePoint Atlantic (TPA), the owner, manager, and developer of Sparrows Point, the former home of Bethlehem Steel in Southeast Baltimore County respectfully submits this testimony and strongly supports SB783/HB1435 (Brighter Tomorrow Act).

Since 2014 TPA has taken on the challenge to clean up and remediate the environmental impacts of a century of steel making and prepare the former Sparrows Point steel mill in Baltimore for re-development into what is today a thriving global center of excellence as a leading tri-modal transportation, distribution, manufacturing, and logistics hub, with over 50 world class tenant companies that directly employ over 13,000 Marylanders.

TradePoint Atlantic believes the Brighter Tomorrow Act will properly incentivize the development of rooftop solar energy production to help Maryland achieve its renewable energy production and carbon reduction goals. With over 14 million square feet of large-scale industrial facilities in place, and more planned, TradePoint Atlantic is actively considering a rooftop solar energy program to support our sustainability goals. This program will greatly enhance those efforts and further encourage larger installations of on-site green energy production.

TradePoint Atlantic is also considering on-site solar energy generation to sustainably power the planned Sparrows Point Container Terminal, an all-new fully electric 163-acre container terminal that will significantly expand the capacity of the Port of Baltimore. The Brighter Tomorrow Act will help make this plan a reality through the exemption of personal property taxes and by further incentivizing rooftop solar projects over greenfield projects with the doubling of solar renewable energy credits to 200%, a provision that promotes sustainable development strategies for solar. This bill is a smart investment by the State of Maryland that will help align businesses with good policy to achieve the state's clean energy and carbon reduction goals so future generations of Marylanders can enjoy a "brighter tomorrow". We urge the committee's support and favorable report.

About TradePoint Atlantic

The 3,300-acre former steel mill and industrial site in Baltimore, Maryland, offers a gateway to markets around the United States and the world, featuring a unique and unmatched combination of access to deep-water berths, rail, and highways. Groundbreaking agreements signed with federal and state environmental regulators in 2014 to remediate the legacy from a century of steelmaking have enabled the redevelopment of the site into a global center for trade and commerce. With 50 world class companies on site employing over 13,000 Marylanders, jobs are created, communities prosper, and industry is set in motion.

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