



February 29, 2024

Senator Brian J. Feldman
Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and
Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Senator Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and
Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SEIA Support for SB0783– Brighter Tomorrow Act

Dear Chairs and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Solar Energy Industries Association (“SEIA”) in **support** of SB0783 (Elfreth, Augustine, Beidle, Brooks, Feldman, Guzzone, Hester, Hettleman, and Kagan), which alters the maximum generating capacity authorized for certain net metered generating facilities; authorizes an eligible customer-generator participating in certain meter aggregation to receive excess generation from more than one generating system; and requires the Public Service Commission to establish a Small Solar Energy Generating System Incentive Program to provide certain certified systems with a certain additional percentage of renewable energy credits toward meeting the renewable energy portfolio standard for solar energy. It was referred to the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee on February 1, 2024.

Founded in 1974, SEIA is the national trade association for the solar and storage industries, building a comprehensive vision for the advancement of these technologies. SEIA is leading the transformation to a clean energy economy by supporting policy measures that will drive needed investment in clean, domestic, local job-producing solar generation. We work with our 1,200+ member companies, which include solar manufacturers, service providers, residential, community and utility-scale solar developers, installers, construction firms, and investment firms, as well as other strategic partners, to shape fair market rules that promote competition and the growth of reliable, low-cost solar power. Maryland is currently home to more than 200 solar businesses with many more national firms also conducting business in the state.

It is critical that Maryland maximizes the economic and business opportunities associated with solar generation. Unfortunately, Maryland is behind in meeting its nation-leading solar targets. Rising inflation rates, lingering supply chain disruptions from the 2019 global coronavirus pandemic, and impacts of legacy international trade fights have made it harder for Maryland consumers to adopt solar. SB0783 is informed by the important work completed by the recent Solar Incentives Task Force and some of

its most important recommendations, in order to boost Maryland's ability to deploy clean energy for its residents. If enacted, SB0783 would make much-needed adjustments to Maryland's renewable energy portfolio solar renewable energy credits ("SREC") market to encourage new solar generation coming online.

Specifically, SB0783 would assign an SREC multiplier for individual solar systems to produce additional SRECs. Only new solar projects, those that begin generating electricity after July 1, 2024, but before January 1, 2028, would be eligible to earn additional SRECs beginning in January 2025. The number of those additional SRECs is capped in order to prevent any flooding of the market. This legislation thus creates a bridge period to jumpstart new solar development in Maryland, placing the state on a path to meet its existing renewable energy targets at no new or additional cost to Maryland ratepayers, and without additional financial support to existing solar projects. SB0783 also supports traditionally harder-to-finance solar projects, including those sited on residential and commercial rooftops, parking canopies, and brownfields by allowing those projects to earn additional SRECs.

SEIA has been collaborating with Maryland's other solar industry partners on ways to improve this bill to support all market segments, including a rooftop market that is underperforming, utility-scale projects that are at risk due to the unforeseen and devastating effects of trade and supply chain hurdles and higher interest rates, and projects sited on brownfields or carports, which are great places to site solar but more costly to build. We look forward to engaging with Senator Elfreth and this committee on how to best ensure a brighter tomorrow, and more vibrant solar industry in the state of Maryland.

SEIA respectfully requests your support and thanks you for your consideration of this important legislation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Leah Meredith

Leah Meredith
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