



February 29, 2024

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

RE: Senate Bill 783: Renewable Energy – Net Energy Metering Aggregation, Solar Renewable Energy Credits, and Taxes on Solar Energy Generating Systems (Brighter Tomorrow Act)
FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Maryland Rooftop Solar Coalition (MRSC) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 783. MRSC is comprised of a group of companies operating in Maryland whose business models are focused on promoting our State's clean energy policies through the installation and operation of rooftop and customer-sited solar systems.

We submit testimony today expressing our enthusiastic support for the Brighter Tomorrow Act, Senate Bill 783 (SB 783). This comprehensive legislation represents a significant stride towards advancing renewable energy initiatives in Maryland, fostering economic growth, environmental stability, and equitable access to clean energy resources. Last year, Senate Bill 469 established a task force to study types of solar energy incentives and to make recommendations on policy changes necessary to help the State meet their renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS). The task force was a collaboration of all segments and stakeholders in the solar energy circuit here in Maryland and aligns with their recommendation of an interim solution while a larger RPS reform is developed.

Maryland needs to make the transition to solar more affordable as gas and oil prices rise. Stabilizing energy costs through deployment of solar is crucial and we need to prioritize making the transition to solar for homeowners more affordable. Investing in attractive incentives that alleviate high costs of systems is key to a longer term goal of grid stabilization and greater energy storage adoption.

SB 783 incorporates several vital provisions aimed at promoting the adoption and expansion of renewable energy technologies. Of particular importance to MRSC is the provision regarding Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs). Current market barriers are impeding Maryland from meeting its renewable energy targets, resulting in utilities making Alternative Compliance Payments (ACPs). This bill seeks to reform the current SREC market, providing a boost to the industry while larger reforms to the RPS are finalized. Specifically, SB 783 allows for additional SRECs for certain types of new solar projects, including residential and commercial rooftops, parking canopies, and brownfields. An SREC multiplier will encourage more in-state solar installations, providing immediate deployment opportunities and attractive incentives to homeowners.

Residential rooftop installations in Maryland have been on a steady and drastic decline since 2016, approximately by 80%. With the state's underperformance, we face an inability to meet our climate goals. It is imperative for Maryland to transition to more affordable solar energy and SB783 is a seamless gateway to



stabilizing energy costs through solar deployment and for getting Maryland back on track to meeting its climate goals.

In conclusion, SB 783 is a vital step for Maryland's solar industry. I wish to thank Senator Elfreth and many others for championing this bill and the Committee for their time. MRSC respectfully asks that a favorable report is issued.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Farrell, Executive Director
Maryland Rooftop Solar Coalition

Cc: Rick Abbruzzese
