

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office building
Annapolis MD 21401

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

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports Senate Bill 783, as it supports the State’s Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) targets, increases the total capacity of a net metered facility that is meter aggregating, and creates a small solar energy generating system incentive program, where a “certified” system is eligible to receive additional solar renewable energy credits (SRECs) for the life of the project.

When a solar array becomes certified, the small solar energy generating system incentive program would allow MDOT to receive a multiplier attached to any SRECs that may be generated from that system. The increased number of credits received would help MDOT or its contractor to receive an increased revenue potential, all while incentivizing an increase in the State’s RPS participation, which is not currently close to the target.

MDOT has developed a renewable energy development Request for Proposals, which qualified six master solar contractors. The contract is being used by MDOT, and other counties in the State, such as Howard County. Other State agencies, counties, municipalities, quasi-State agencies, and non-profits are also able to use this contract. This contract helps to transition MDOT’s electricity use, from a potential non-renewable package from the utility to clean and renewable solar energy.

Additionally, Senate Bill 783 would allow MDOT to net meter a greater amount of renewable energy instead of being restricted to 2 Megawatts. This can be incredibly advantageous as multiple sites can generate solar energy and transmit it to another meter in the same service territory. This added flexibility will provide help MDOT and other State agencies in meeting ambitious net zero carbon emission, and other State climate goals.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant Senate Bill 783 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Pilar Helm
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Maryland Department of Transportation
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