

Support HB 1265 to Streamline Solar Permitting

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony: Local Government – Building Permits for Residential Solar Energy and Residential Energy Storage Systems – Required Platform and Inspections

Position: Support

Hearing Date: March 5, 2024

We support Del. Fraser-Hidalgo and Sen. Kramer’s bill to update and improve solar permitting in Maryland (HB 1265/SB 1054).

The bill codifies a recommendation of the Maryland Task Force to Study Solar Incentives by streamlining and speeding up solar permitting in Maryland to help us deploy more local solar faster. This will help us achieve state renewable energy and climate goals while driving local economic benefits and lowering energy bills. More details:

- This bill requires jurisdictions to adopt SolarAPP+ by August 2025.
 - SolarAPP+ is automated permitting software developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), a branch of the US Department of Energy (DOE), and is a great solution to the problem of expensive and time intensive solar and energy storage permitting. This tool is free for jurisdictions to use and can be integrated with existing software. There are currently 235 communities across the U.S. that have signed up for SolarAPP+ including Montgomery County.
- This bill requires virtual inspections to further streamline and speed up solar permitting.
- Additionally, Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) has received \$3.8 million from DOE to support adoption of SolarAPP+ by Maryland jurisdictions.

Signed:

Solar Energy World
Poolesville Green
Ceres
Maryland PIRG

Environment Maryland
Sunrun
Chesapeake Physicians for Social
Responsibility

Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate
Justice Wing
Lumina Solar
Howard County Climate Action
Unitarian Universalist Legislative
Ministry of Maryland
IGS Solar
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Action Fund
Maryland Conservation Council

Maryland Rooftop Solar Coalition
The Legacy of a Livable Planet, Inc.
Gnatt Medical Associates
Maryland Conservation Council
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
Sustainable Energy Systems
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Climate Reality Greater Maryland
Sunnova
Solar United Neighbors Action



SolarEnergyWorld
Because Tomorrow Matters

sunnova[®]
POWERING ENERGY INDEPENDENCE™

 **CLIMATE
JUSTICE
WING** MARYLAND
LEGISLATIVE
COALITION

CHESAPEAKE
PSR **PHYSICIANS**
FOR SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY



SUNRUN



Ceres



LUMINA
S O L A R

HoCo
Climate
Action



Unitarian Universalist
Legislative Ministry of
Maryland



**SIERRA
CLUB**

MARYLAND CHAPTER



Maryland Conservation Council

Protecting Maryland's Natural Heritage Since 1969



**The Climate
Reality Project**[®]
GREATER MARYLAND CHAPTER



**ELDERS
CLIMATE
ACTION**

A project of Elders Action Network



**SOLAR UNITED
NEIGHBORS ACTION**