Support HB 1265 to Streamline Solar Permitting

<u>Committee:</u> Environment and Transportation <u>Testimony:</u> Local Government – Building Permits for Residential Solar Energy and Residential Energy Storage Systems – Required Platform and Inspections <u>Position:</u> Support <u>Hearing Date:</u> 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





POWERING ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

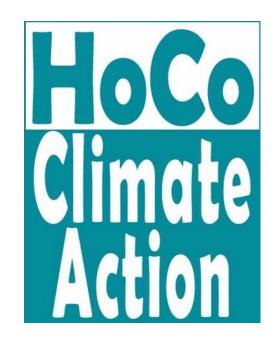




SUNRUN









Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland





Maryland Conservation Council

Protecting Maryland's Natural Heritage Since 1969





