



TESTIMONY FOR SB0959

Electricity - Tariffs, Distributed Energy Resources, and Electric Distribution System Support Services (Distributed Renewable Integration and Vehicle Electrification (DRIVE) Act)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Feldman

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0959 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

As a large part of Maryland's transition from fossil fuel to clean, renewable energy will depend on how efficient our energy grid is in accepting newer forms of energy, and ensuring that energy is available over peak usage hours. The overall efficiency of the grid can be enhanced if consumers are engaged.

This bill, if enacted, would direct the Public Service Commission (PSC) to work to engage the public by supporting customer-driven solutions to the expected impacts of the transition to full electrification. It also encourages the use of electric vehicles to provide home back-up power and vehicle-to-grid connections (bi-directional power) as well as creating a new program to allow consumers with battery storage and other on-site generating systems to be compensated for supporting the efficiency of the grid. Finally, it directs the PSC to transition customers of electric utilities to time-based rates to provide a discount if they shift electricity usage to off-peak periods.

Our members believe that the more the public is engaged and incentivized as part of our energy transition, the faster we will be able to fully transition. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.