



Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Testimony on: SB0049 - Restrictions on Use - Solar Collector Systems - Alteration
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 8, 2024

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB0049. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB0049.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) calls for 14.5% of Maryland’s clean electricity to be contributed by solar energy by 2030. The State is currently falling short of this goal. In fact, because Maryland utilities have failed to meet the annual solar energy RPS target, they paid a record \$78 million in alternative compliance payments to the Strategic Energy Investment Fund in FY 2022.¹

Small-scale solar installations (e.g., roof-top solar systems) account for nearly two-thirds of Maryland’s solar power generation.² Expanding customer-sited solar generation will play a significant role in helping Maryland reach our renewable energy targets, and we must look for meaningful ways to foster more residential solar. This is particularly true in the short-term as larger community and commercial solar projects are delayed due to the interconnection approval backlog at our PJM grid operator.³

SB0049 will help to remove barriers for solar installation at common ownership properties. Specifically, the bill will prohibit unreasonable restrictions by community associations related to the installation of a solar collector system. A restriction is deemed unreasonable if it: 1) increases the installation cost of the system by at least 5% over the projected cost of the

¹ Maryland Energy Administration. [Strategic Energy Investment Fund – Activities for 2022](#). February 2023.

² U.S. Energy Information Administration, [Maryland State Profile and Energy Estimates](#).

³ Natural Resources Defense Counsel. [PJM Interconnection Delays Threaten State Renewable Goals](#). May 18, 2023.

initially proposed project or (2) reduces the energy generated by at least 10% below the projected energy generation in the initial proposal.

A community association may prohibit or restrict the installation of a solar collector system in the common area/elements served by the association, and may establish reasonable restrictions as to the number, size, place, or manner of placement or installation of a solar collector system installed in the common area/elements.

The MLC Climate Justice Wing strongly supports SB0049 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

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Adat Shalom Climate Action

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Climate Parents of Prince George's

Climate Reality Project

ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition

Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

Echotopia

Elders Climate Action

Fix Maryland Rail

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

Greenbelt Climate Action Network

HoCoClimateAction

IndivisibleHoCoMD

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Mobilize Frederick

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Mountain Maryland Movement

Nuclear Information & Resource Service

Progressive Maryland

Safe & Healthy Playing Fields

Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

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