



## TESTIMONY FOR HB1435

### Renewable Energy – Net Energy Metering Aggregation, Solar Renewable Energy Credits, and Taxes on Solar Energy Generating Systems (Brighter Tomorrow Act)

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo

**Committee:** Economic Matters

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1435 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.

If Maryland is to meet its 14.5% solar energy goal by 2030, we have to dramatically grow our solar capability and incentivize the installation of solar throughout the state. This bill is designed around the State Solar Incentives Task Force, which was tasked with recommending measures and incentives to boost solar production in Maryland.

It does several things –

- It requires the Public Service Commission to establish a Small Solar Energy Generating System Incentive Program that would provide certified solar energy generating systems with additional renewable energy credits and it extends those credits for the life-cycle of the system
- It requires that prevailing wage provisions apply to the construction of a certified solar system unless the system is already subject to a project labor agreement
- It extends the personal property tax exemption for community solar energy generating system projects and exempts nonresidential solar generating systems from State or local real or personal property taxes

Our members feel that these measures will help grow the solar industry in the state, which is an absolute necessity given the effect that climate change is having and the crisis that we find ourselves in. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.