



TESTIMONY FOR HB0366 Restrictions on Use – Solar Collector Systems - Alteration

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Smith

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0366 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.

Maryland needs to produce much more solar energy than it is currently projected to produce in order to meet its statutory greenhouse gas reduction requirements. There are many barriers to installation of solar that must be removed.

This bill, if enacted, will help to remove barriers for common ownership properties. Specifically, the bill will prohibit unreasonable restrictions by community associations related to the installation of a solar collector system. Those systems in which the restrictions by the association cause the installation cost of the system to be increased by at least 5% over the projected cost of the initially proposed project or where the energy generated is reduced by at least 10% below the projected energy generation in the initial proposal would be considered unreasonable.

A community association may still 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.

Our members see the need to change how we deal with the installation of energy systems in the state. We must be proactive and do everything we can to boost clean energy installations.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.