

# **B&T LOS HB 61- CI .pdf**

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**Bill HB 61:** Public School Construction and Renovation: Solar Canopies for School Parking Lots - Underground Infrastructure

**Position:** SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

CI Renewables is pleased to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 61, which now, as amended, would require that new construction and major renovation projects of public school buildings evaluate the opportunity for solar canopy installations in school parking lots.

As a company dedicated to advancing clean energy solutions, we recognize the critical importance of planning infrastructure with sustainability in mind. Solar canopies not only reduce energy costs for schools but also contributes significantly to Maryland's renewable energy goals. By requiring an evaluation of plausibility before initial construction or renovation, HB 61 ensures cost-efficiency, eliminates future retrofitting expenses, and accelerates the deployment of solar technologies across the state.

We respectfully urge the Committee to provide a favorable report on HB 61. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joshua Feldmark  
Senior Vice President  
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# **Testimony.HB61\_Delegate Lorig Charkoudian Senate B**

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Position: FAV



## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

### HB 61- PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION - SOLAR CANOPIES FOR SCHOOL PARKING LOTS - UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE

#### TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN

APRIL 4TH, 2025

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Installing solar panels in parking lots has many advantages.<sup>1</sup> They generate clean energy that can be sent directly into the electrical grid or can be used to charge electric vehicles parked below the canopy. Parking lots occupy land that has already been developed and are located near where the electricity is actually being used; decreasing the need to situate solar arrays on undeveloped land and costly transmission or distribution upgrades. The canopies themselves provide shade from the sun and shelter from rain and snow.

House Bill 61 will ensure that the potential benefits and cost savings of parking lot solar canopies are considered during school construction. Current statute requires evaluation of the use of solar technologies—including photovoltaic or solar water heating—during design and development of school construction, but does not specifically require evaluation of the use of parking lot solar canopies. HB 61 will amend Md. Code, Educ. § 5-319 to specifically require evaluation of the use of parking lot solar canopies while new construction is being done on schools (i.e. while the asphalt on parking lots is already ripped up).

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 61.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.wired.com/story/france-solar-panels-parking-lots/#:~:text=The%20biggest%20concern%2C%20though%2C%20is,to%20build%20the%20supporting%20structure.>