



RE: HB 827 – Public Utilities - Distributed Generation Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

Favorable

Chair Wilson and members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

CleanCapital provides this written testimony regarding House Bill (HB) 827. CleanCapital's position on this legislation is Favorable.

CleanCapital is a diversified clean energy company focused on strategic investments in the full lifecycle of solar and energy storage projects, including early-stage development, construction, and operations. CleanCapital is a leadership member of the Coalition for Community Solar Access—a national trade association representing over 125 community solar developers, businesses, and nonprofits—and is among the top ten commercial solar asset owners in the U.S., managing an operating portfolio of more than 200 projects totaling more than 340 MW and a pipeline totaling well over 2 GW. To date, the company has invested over \$1 billion in projects and companies, including 17 operating projects with a cumulative nameplate capacity of over 25 MW in Maryland. We are grateful to this Committee for supporting the passage of HB 908 in 2023, which made community solar a permanent solution in Maryland.

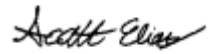
HB 827, sponsored by Chair Clippinger, Delegate Charkoudian, and Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo, would create a Distributed Generation Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (DGCPCN), that would streamline the permitting process for qualifying community solar projects between 2 and 5 megawatts. The bill directs the Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) to develop standard siting and design requirements through a stakeholder engagement process and for the Public Service Commission to consider that input in establishing the regulations and application requirements for a DGCPCN. Finally, when processing a DGCPCN application, the Commission must ensure public comment opportunities are available and hold a public hearing.

HB 827 would drive greater transparency, efficiency, and consistency in permitting community solar projects in Maryland. CleanCapital is looking forward to future investment in the state which would bring more community solar projects online and provide the benefits of community energy to Maryland ratepayers.

CleanCapital appreciates Chair Clippinger and Delegates Charkoudian and Fraser-Hidalgo for their leadership on HB 827 and their continued support for community solar. CleanCapital also appreciates the Senate and House Leadership for taking up siting in HB 931 and HB 1036 which establish siting standards for solar and storage systems. HB 827 builds on the direction of the Leadership bill by providing a narrower solution specific to siting and administrative challenges for community solar projects that require (between 2-5 megawatts) a CPCN. This bill is an important next step to reducing barriers for community solar and achieving the energy and equity benefits of the permanent program.

CleanCapital urges a favorable report on HB 827.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Elias". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" being more prominent than the last name "Elias".

Scott Elias,
Director of Policy and Market Development
CleanCapital
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