

February 21, 2025

Delegate C. T. Wilson
Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
231 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Brian M. Crosby
Vice Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
231 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SEIA Support for HB1338: Public Utilities - Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity - Energy Storage Devices

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) in **support** of HB1338 (Valderrama), which was referred to the House Economic Matters Committee on February 7, 2025.

Founded in 1974, SEIA is the national trade association for the solar and storage industries, building a comprehensive vision for the advancement of these technologies. SEIA is leading the transformation to a clean energy economy by supporting policy measures that will drive the needed investment in clean, domestic, local job-producing solar generation. We work with our 1,200+ member companies, which include solar manufacturers, service providers, residential, community and utility-scale solar developers, installers, construction firms, and investment firms, as well as other strategic partners, to shape fair market rules that promote competition and the growth of reliable, low-cost solar power. Maryland is home to more than 200 solar and storage businesses with many more national firms also conducting business in the state.

HB1338 would require storage assets to receive a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) from the Public Service Commission (PSC) before beginning construction of an energy storage device with a capacity of 2 megawatts (MW) or larger. By allowing battery energy storage systems to undergo the same administrative application and approval process that new sources of electricity generation go through in Maryland, HB1338 takes a bold step forward in ensuring storage assets can be deployed in a timely manner and significantly contribute to the reliability and resiliency of the state's electric grid.

Energy storage is critical to an efficient electric grid that will enable Marylanders to produce clean energy when it's abundant, store it, and send it back to the electricity grid when needed. When the grid is down, energy storage can provide critical backup power to emergency shelters, hospitals, homes, businesses and even neighborhoods. When paired with solar, the power of energy storage to keep the lights on is enhanced because the batteries can recharge using solar even if the power outage lasts several days.

In many cases, storage can be used instead of traditional, costly, and slow investments in grid infrastructure. Utilities can use storage to increase capacity for new clean energy deployment, which can open up the benefits of clean energy to more customers.



For these reasons, SEIA strongly **supports** this legislation and respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB1338. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Leah Meredith

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Mid-Atlantic Regional Director
Solar Energy Industries Association
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