



Favorable Testimony for The Renewable Energy Certainty Act

SB0931/HB1036

Joint Senate Education, Energy Environment and House Economic Matters Committees
2/28/2025

On behalf of the organizations listed above, I urge a favorable amendments report on SB0931/HB1036. The Renewable Energy Certainty Act will protect Maryland consumers and allow more people to reap the benefits of affordable solar and battery power.

Solar and batteries are now the fastest and most affordable way to generate new, dispatchable energy generation, and ensuring these technologies can be deployed at scale is key to meeting Maryland's projected increase in electricity demand. As [a recent Brattle study](#) found, batteries on the distribution or utility grid can meet new energy demand for less than building a new gas plant in Maryland.

One of the tremendous benefits of solar and storage energy is that they are distributed and allow thousands of people to benefit from electricity generation, rather than only a few. The flip side of this distributed benefit is that every region in Maryland must play their part.

Unfortunately, today there are people who want to install solar and/or batteries on their land, but are prohibited from doing so by their local municipality. As we are working to tackle the climate crisis and generate more electricity in-state, we cannot afford to prohibit residents from participating in the clean energy economy.

The Renewable Energy Certainty Act provides Maryland residents with the certainty that if they want to deploy solar or batteries they will be able to. Removing these self-inflicted, arbitrary bans on clean energy will unlock additional clean energy deployment, allow more Marylanders to generate revenue from electricity, and improve air quality for everyone. The bill also codifies

best practices for solar siting including setbacks and vegetative screens to ensure every solar and batteries.

In addition to providing much needed state guidance on permits for solar and battery construction, the Renewable Energy Certainty Act also provides certainty for people installing solar on their homes by codifying more regulations to reduce the chance of a homeowner being harmed by a fly-by-night solar installer. When someone signs a contract to have solar installed on their homes, they deserve to feel certain their contractor will good work and keep their word. That's what the Renewable Energy Act helps provide.

We urge a favorable report on SB0931/HB1036.