



**Committee: Economic Matters**

**Testimony on: HB1233 – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems -  
Subscription Eligibility**

**Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing**

**Submitting: Richard Deutschmann**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: February 21, 2025**

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony today in support of HB1233. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB1233.

The Community Solar program in Maryland has been incredibly effective, allowing residents the option to have locally generated, clean renewable energy delivered to their homes or small businesses. There are several reasons why this is an important option, such as residents not owning their own roof, or shade on their home. Additionally, there are strong provisions in the law to target Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) residents, helping them to reduce their energy bills by 10-20%. In the current energy rate environment, this has been especially important, given the rise in utility rates due to the rapid escalation in capacity pricing on the PJM grid, as well as the steep rise in distribution charges for methane gas.

However, there is currently a mismatch between the development of Community Solar plants and the demand from LMI customers. This is primarily due to the lack of suitable site locations of solar plants within BGE and PEPCO territory. Currently, the law allows for residents to sign up for Community Solar *only within their own utility territory*. As LMI must be at least 40% of the makeup of each Community Solar project, this has had the effect of slowing in-state development of much needed clean energy generation. HB1233 would simply allow for LMI residents to sign up for Community Solar from any in-state facility.

It is estimated that this bill could help more than 28,000 LMI residents with access to the Community Solar program, and the accompanying utility bill savings that they so desperately need. This would, in turn, help improve the lives of the most vulnerable Marylanders, improving energy equity in the state. Additionally, this program could help to support an additional 160MW of solar development in the state, supporting our shared climate goals, improving in-state generation and reliability, and slowing the need for costly transmission buildout.

For all of these reasons, we strongly support HB1233 and urge a FAVORABLE report in Committee.

350MoCo

Adat Shalom Climate Action

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry  
Chesapeake Earth Holders  
Climate Parents of Prince George's  
Climate Reality Project  
ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition  
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists  
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County  
Echotopia  
Elders Climate Action  
Fix Maryland Rail  
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization  
Greenbelt Climate Action Network  
HoCoClimateAction  
IndivisibleHoCoMD  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Mobilize Frederick  
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions  
Montgomery Countryside Alliance  
Mountain Maryland Movement  
Nuclear Information & Resource Service  
Progressive Maryland  
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields  
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee  
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter  
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