

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

Favorable

Chair Wilson and members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

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

PureSky is a leading developer, owner, and operator of US community solar, C&I, and storage projects with headquarters in Denver, Colorado. Since entering the US market in 2016, the company has rapidly expanded its scale and currently operates a portfolio with a generation capacity of approximately 233 MWs across forty-four sites or under-construction projects expected to be completed in the short term. The company has a large pipeline of solar and battery storage projects across existing and new US markets, placing PureSky in a primary position within the distributed generation market. The company's mission is to make clean energy accessible and affordable to local communities across the United States while shaping a brighter, more sustainable future for generations to come.

We are committed to owning and operating our facilities throughout their entire lifecycle, prioritizing collaboration with landowners, municipalities, and other local stakeholders to foster valuable, long-term partnerships. We proudly serve nearly 9,000 community solar customers across three states, including 15% from low-to-moderate income households, by providing access to affordable solar energy. To date, we have saved our customers over five million dollars annually on electricity bills.

PureSky is actively developing distributed solar projects in the Maryland community solar market. We are grateful to this Committee for supporting the passage of HB 908 in 2023, which made community solar a permanent solution in Maryland. Because of that, we are exploring additional opportunities to partner with landowners to deploy distributed solar and storage facilities throughout the state.

HB 827, sponsored by Chair Clippinger, Delegate Charkoudian, and Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo, would create a Distributed Generation Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (DG-CPCN), that would streamline the permitting process for qualifying distributed solar projects between 2 and 5 megawatts. The bill directs the Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) to establish 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 DG-CPCN. Finally, when processing a DG-CPCN application, the Commission must ensure that opportunities for public comment are available and conduct a public hearing.



HB 827 aims to enhance transparency, efficiency, and consistency in permitting distributed solar projects in Maryland. PureSky has several projects currently under development in the state, and HB 827 will help facilitate the timely commencement of those projects, allowing them to benefit both landowners and subscribers.

PureSky appreciates Chair Clippinger and Delegates Charkoudian and Fraser-Hidalgo's leadership on HB 827 and continued support for distributed solar. PureSky also appreciates the Senate and House Leadership for taking up siting in SB 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 distributed solar projects that require (between 2-5 megawatts) a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. This bill is an important next step to reducing barriers to distributed solar and achieving the energy and equity benefits of the permanent program.

PureSky urges a favorable report on HB 827.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Deal", is positioned above the typed name.

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