



February 28, 2025

To: House Economic Matters Committee & Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Re: **HB1037 / SB0909**: Energy Resource Adequacy and Planning Act - **FAVORABLE**

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee and the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee of the Maryland General Assembly:

My name is John Miller. I live in Woodstock, Howard County, Maryland. I represent Chaberton Energy, a local Maryland based renewable energy developer with offices at 1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 305, Rockville, Montgomery County, Maryland. Chaberton is a leading developer in the Maryland Community Energy Generating Systems ("CSEGS") Program and was named the 34th fastest-growing private company and 1st fastest-growing community solar company in the United States on the 2024 Inc. 5000.

Chaberton Energy was built upon the framework that the State set up with the Community Solar Program. In nearly five years, we have grown and now employ over 50 people. We have multiple solar projects operating in Maryland, as well as a robust pipeline of projects in construction and development.

The projects we develop deliver real and tangible benefits to your constituents, the residents of Maryland. We save Marylanders an average of \$150 annually per household on their utility costs; and each Community Solar project supports well over \$2.5M in savings for subscribers, all of whom reside in Maryland and many of whom are Low to Moderate Income (LMI) subscribers. As an industry, we support ensuring the benefits of solar energy flow to those who need it most. The energy bill savings we can offer to LMI subscribers are often even greater and provide a necessary lifeline to those struggling to meet basic needs, including increased energy costs.

The most recent report on the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) shows that the State is well behind in meeting its energy goals. Specifically, per the latest report for 2023, the State only met ~44% of its obligations of RPS, which led to over \$320M in penalty payments levied on the utilities. It will be necessary for Maryland to meet, and exceed, its clean energy goals to ensure a safe, reliable, cost effective, and equitable energy policy. According to data from the Energy Information Administration, Maryland consumes almost six times more energy than it produces and according to the Ten Year Plan produced by the Public Service Commission Maryland imports approximately 40% of its electricity consumption, meaning that the State is very reliant on energy which Maryland does not generate. This issue has been recently exacerbated by the PJM capacity auction which has already begun to have significant financial impacts on the energy bills for all Marylanders. The optimal kilowatt-hour is one that is both produced and consumed in Maryland.



We commend Senator Hester and Vice Chair Crosby on the forward thinking in proactively addressing Maryland's energy portfolio. Creating an office with the sole focus of forecasting the energy load in Maryland and addressing what is needed to ensure a safe, reliable, and robust energy mix will allow the State to better shape the future of Maryland's energy markets. The energy portfolio of Maryland is complex and ever changing; it will be beneficial to take a holistic view of Maryland's energy needs, while considering factors such as cost effectiveness, public health, climate change, and grid reliability, among the other factors listed in the legislation.

In order to keep building on the successes of Maryland, and to keep fostering jobs for a strong local economy, stimulating tax revenue, saving the people of Maryland money on their energy bills, it is imperative that the State take a proactive approach to its energy needs. We ask that the Economic Matters Committee issue a favorable report on HB1037 and that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee issue a favorable report on SB 0909.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Miller
Chaberton Energy
Vice President of Development