



21 February 2025

Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair  
Economic Matters Committee  
Room 231  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **Written Testimony**

#### **HB1233: Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Subscription Eligibility**

#### **Position: Favorable**

---

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, Members of the Economic Matters Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1233, Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Subscription Eligibility.

I am Robin Dutta, the Executive Director of the Chesapeake Solar and Storage Association (CHESSA). Our association advocates for our over 100 member companies in all market segments across the solar and energy storage industries. Many members are Maryland-based. Others are regional and national companies with an interest and/or business footprint in the state. Our purpose is to promote the mainstream adoption of local solar, large-scale solar, and battery storage throughout the electric grid to realize a stable and affordable grid for all consumers.

I am here to provide favorable testimony on HB1233, Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Subscription Eligibility.

A major part of Maryland community solar program is the requirement to sign up 40 percent of the system capacity for low-and-moderate income (LMI) consumers. However, those LMI consumers may not be located in an area with available community solar capacity. Community solar has proven to be an effective way to reduce energy expenses for its subscribers, with households seeing between 10% and 15% in bill savings by participating in these programs. For LMI families, these savings can make a significant difference in managing their household budgets, especially given the increasing financial strain many are facing.

However, current utility regulations often create barriers to participation, as customers are limited by the utility provider they have access to. Increasing access in the program for low to moderate income households will benefit thousands of Maryland residents in more population dense areas, particularly in Pepco and BGE territories.

HB1233 aligns with Maryland's ongoing efforts to keep energy costs down, as well as promote clean energy adoption in a more equitable manner.

CHESSA asks for a favorable report on HB1233. Please reach out with any questions on solar and storage policy. CHESSA is here to be a resource to the committee.

Sincerely,

*Robin K. Dutta*

Robin K. Dutta

Executive Director

**Chesapeake Solar and Storage Association**

[robin@chessa.org](mailto:robin@chessa.org)