



TESTIMONY FOR HB1233

Community Solar Energy Generating Systems – Subscription Eligibility

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Johnson, A.

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1233 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our coalition members understand the getting more solar energy into our grid is an important step in reducing our greenhouse gases and making us less dependent on the predations of the oil and gas industry. But equally important is to get LMI (low- and moderate- income) residents switched over, particularly to solar farms where they can receive a credit on their utility bills.

Currently, a resident is prohibited from subscribing to a solar farm outside of their electric service territory. The issue is that there can be a wait for a solar farm to open in a particular electric service territory. This bill will allow LMI households to subscribe to a solar farm outside of their electric service area and still receive the credit on their utility bill. This will help LMI households reap the financial benefit of solar and avoid the wait time.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.