

February 19, 2025

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

### **HB 1233 – FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

TurningPoint Energy (“TPE”) is a solar and battery storage development company, with over 1.2 gigawatts of community solar developed or in operation across the United States and over 240 megawatts in development or operation in Maryland alone. We are proud to have been participating in Maryland’s community solar pilot program since its inception in 2015 and continue to invest heavily in the state’s clean energy future. Community solar projects are proving to be an invaluable tool for reducing electric bills and increasing access to clean energy, especially for those who cannot install solar on their own roofs, such as renters or apartment dwellers.

**HB 1233 stands to expand access to community solar tenfold. The legislation promises to increase the number of LMI customers served by community solar by at least 28,000, providing access to 160 MW of clean, in-state energy.**

Under HB 1233, an LMI household will be able to subscribe to any community solar facility in Maryland. The legislation directs the Public Service Commission to continue its work modernizing utility billing systems by implementing cross utility crediting for low- and moderate-income subscribers. This builds upon the program’s primary goal of broadening access to community solar savings.

**Today, fewer than 1% of LMI customers in the BGE and PEPCO service areas have access to community solar.** The program serves fewer than 4,000 qualifying residents, despite over 395,000 LMI customers in BGE and 180,000 residing in Pepco. Yet, their electric bills are projected to increase significantly, according to a recent report from the [Office of People’s Council](#). By subscribing to community solar facilities, these households could save up to 20% on their annual electricity bills.

Why are only a small share of low to moderate income BGE and Pepco customers poised to enjoy the benefits of community solar? Available sites are limited in these utility territories. While Chairman Wilson’s Renewable Energy Certainty Act should help address deployment in central Maryland – **the industry still forecasts community solar savings will not reach more than 3% and 7% of Pepco and BGE LMI customers, respectively, unless cross utility crediting is implemented.**



Meanwhile, community solar development will eventually come to halt in DPL, and potentially PE, as a result of market saturation. In fact, projected current community solar capacity far exceeds the likely number of potential LMI subscribers in the DPL territory. **Cross utility crediting for low- to moderate-income subscribers solves two issues at once: delivering bill savings to thousands of Maryland households while ensuring Maryland does not halt any progress achieving its clean energy deployment goals.**

HB 1233 is intentionally drafted as a concise bill designed to be a “Phase II” of the current work underway at the Public Service Commission workgroup related to the modernization of utility billing systems and allocation of community solar credits. In HB 908 (2023), the Economic Matters Committee directed the PSC to adopt a consolidated billing mechanism, which will greatly simplify the subscriber management process while enabling for utilities to streamline and upgrade their billing systems no later than January 1, 2026. As a consistent participant in these stakeholder discussions, TPE affirms that cross utility crediting is an appropriate next step for the PSC to ensure that the ambitious LMI participation goals of the program can be attained.

We applaud Delegate Johnson for seeking to expand access to community solar for low- and moderate-income (LMI) households in Maryland, particularly within the BGE and PEPCO utility territories. By enabling cross-utility crediting, Maryland can bring more clean energy projects online and ensure LMI customers are not left behind in the clean energy transition.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

/s/

David Murray

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