



HB - SUPPORT  
Frances Stewart, MD  
Elders Climate Action Maryland  
[frances.stewart6@gmail.com](mailto:frances.stewart6@gmail.com)  
301-718-0446

HB0827

Meeting of the Economic Matters Committee

March 13, 2025

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Committee, on behalf of Elders Climate Action Maryland, I urge a favorable report on HB0827.

Elders Climate Action is a nationwide organization devoted to ensuring that our children, grandchildren, and future generations have a world in which they can thrive. The Maryland Chapter has members across the state.

Each day, we see the climate crisis more clearly. We know that Maryland is at risk for sea level rise, flooding from intense rainfall, heat waves, and other extreme weather events. Maryland can also be a leader in moving us to a safer, healthier future where we all can thrive. The clean energy transition is an essential part of that future.

Marylanders are also concerned about the rising cost of living, and particularly, about rising energy costs. In 2023, approximately [400,000 Maryland households](#)<sup>1</sup> were paying more than six percent of their income for energy bills. Energy costs are particularly a problem for low-income households and people with fixed incomes, many of whom are elders.

Solar generation is the least expensive way to add new electric generation, but the growth of solar energy in Maryland has been much less than hoped. One reason for that is the inordinately long interconnection queue at PJM. There are signs that is improving, but it continues to be a barrier.

Small solar projects such as the ones dealt with by this bill avoid that queue, which makes them especially valuable. Also, they support the distribution grid and have fewer losses than generation sites that are far away. Many of them will be community solar projects that will cut electricity bills for low and moderate-income customers, who are the hardest hit by high utility bills.

The development of the Distributed Generation Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and the siting guidelines would foster the development of these important projects while protecting communities and the environment.

For all of these reasons, we strongly urge a favorable report on HB0827.

Thank you.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.psehealthyenergy.org/over-18-percent-of-maryland-households-are-burdened-by-high-energy-bills/>