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RE: SB 909 and HB 1037 – Energy Resource Adequacy and Planning Act

Favorable

Chair Feldman, Chair Wilson, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee,

The Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) provides this written testimony regarding Senate Bill (SB) 909 and House Bill (HB) 1037. CCSA's position on this legislation is Favorable.

CCSA is a national, business-led trade organization, composed of over 100 member companies, that works to expand access to clean, local, affordable energy nationwide through the development of robust community solar programs. Community solar projects involve medium-scale solar facilities that are shared by multiple community subscribers who receive credit on their electricity bills for their share of the power produced.

CCSA has been an active participant in the development and implementation of Maryland's community solar pilot program, and we are grateful to this Committee for supporting the passage of SB 613 and HB 908 in 2023, which made community solar a permanent solution in Maryland. As a result, community solar will play a critical role in helping the state meet its energy requirements while also ensuring electricity cost savings for those that need it most, ensuring at least 40% of all capacity benefits low-and-moderate income customers.

SB 909 / HB 1037 would establish an Integrated Resource Planning Office in the Public Service Commission (Commission), tasked with creating a Comprehensive Energy Forecast that considers different energy scenario policy options for meeting the state's energy needs. It would also require the Commission to establish regulations driving the development of integrated resource plans by each electric company.

CCSA appreciates Senator Hester and Vice Chair Crosby and supports the intent and direction of SB 909 / HB 1037. This legislation takes a responsible approach to understanding Maryland's rapidly growing energy demand and how best to leverage cost-competitive and highly deployable clean energy sources to meet the State's needs. It carries notable synergies with SB 908 and HB 1225, which CCSA also supports.

CCSA urges a favorable report on SB 909 and HB 1037.

Sincerely,

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