



21 February 2025

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

**Written Testimony**

**HB1338: Public Utilities - Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity - Energy Storage Devices**

**Position: Favorable**

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Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, Members of the Economic Matters Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1338, Public Utilities - Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity - Energy Storage Devices

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 HB1338, Public Utilities - Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity - Energy Storage Devices.

Currently, there are no rules around how it would be determined that an energy storage project (of any size and type) needs to be reviewed by local government or a statewide authority. HB1338 would update statutes to define when an energy storage facility falls under the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process or should fall under local government zoning and permitting ordinances and zoning regulations. With the statewide 3 GW by 2033 statewide energy storage goal and various working groups and dockets underway at the Maryland Public Service Commission, it is important to define the approval process for energy storage devices.

By using current generation standards as a guide, the bill would have any energy storage facility with a rated capacity of over 2 Megawatts be subject to the CPCN process. Solar projects with paired energy storage would also have that clarity, knowing that if their project's solar capacity is also 2 Megawatts and under, adding battery storage under 2 MW would not unnecessarily place

that project into the CPCN process. These smaller projects, including all behind the meter solar installations, should be handled at the local government level, whether or not they include battery storage capacity.

CHESSA asks for a favorable report on HB1338. This is a necessary addition to statute that will provide clarity to solar and energy storage developers. 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)