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February 20, 2025

**SUPPORT: HB1233 - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Subscription Eligibility**

Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports HB1233: Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Subscription Eligibility, and we thank Delegate Johnson for his leadership on this issue.

In 2023, Maryland made permanent its community solar program, which included a provision, strongly supported by Maryland LCV, requiring 40% of every project be reserved for those in Low and Moderate Income or Overburdened and Underserved communities. This mandate ensures that the most vulnerable Marylanders will be able to benefit from the program and ensure participation in a clean energy economy.

This legislation hopes to further expand that access by allowing low-and-moderate income families to subscribe to any community solar project in the state, regardless of their utility service area (a current restriction to the program).

Maryland LCV believes that the community solar program sits at the nexus of two significant state goals: clean energy generation, and environmental justice, and this modest change to the program furthers those goals. For this reason, we urge a favorable report on this important bill.