



TESTIMONY FOR HB0061

Public School Construction and Renovation - Solar Canopies for School Parking Lots – Underground Infrastructure

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Charkoudian

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0061 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Maryland needs to produce much more solar energy than it is currently projected to produce in order to meet its statutory greenhouse gas reduction requirements. There are many barriers to installation of solar that must be removed.

This bill will require that whenever a renovation project of a public-school building includes a parking lot to be constructed that the parking lot be engineered and constructed so that it is equipped with the underground infrastructure necessary to support installation of a solar canopy. This is a proactive step that will help move solar installations forward and help ensure that the state doesn't have to spend more money retrofitting these kind of projects because there was no forethought.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.