

March 6, 2025

Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Honorable Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB 983 – FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

TurningPoint Energy (“TPE”) is a solar and battery storage development company with over 240 megawatts in development or operation in Maryland. We are proud to have been participating in Maryland’s community solar pilot program since its inception in 2015 and continue to invest heavily in the state’s clean energy future.

It is an understatement to say Senator Brooks is a leader in clean energy. TPE is grateful for his longstanding efforts to bring about practical and significant solutions for growing Maryland’s in-state renewable resources, both as a Member of the House of Delegates and now Senator.

The 2025 legislative session has focused on how the state can deploy more in-state energy resources while minimizing ratepayer impact - SB 983 is one of these solutions. The Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process was developed decades ago to manage the permitting process of large-scale, thermal power plants. However, a significant portion of Maryland’s future energy resources – specifically medium-scale solar energy projects - do not accompany the types of land use, air and water quality, and other community impacts as traditional gas, coal or nuclear facilities. By creating a streamlined permitting process of qualifying solar projects fewer than 5 megawatts in size – Maryland will accelerate the deployment of distributed energy resources, while reducing administrative burdens on its state agencies.

TPE affirms SB 983 is fundamental to address a looming bottleneck in community solar applications to the Public Service Commission (PSC) and Power Plant Research Program (PPRP). In January, this Committee was briefed on how transmission-level projects have been backlogged at PJM for several years, and how inefficient processes and a lack of staff resources starved the region of meeting its full potential to deploy renewable energy over the last decade. SB 983 would ensure a similar process does not take place with distributed generation here in Maryland.

In the spirit of continuing the growth of Maryland’s community solar deployment, I offer additional language related to cross utility crediting for low to moderate income households. This language, based off Senator Jackson’s SB 1022, would ensure that the growth of medium-scale solar energy does not lose a step due to Maryland’s more populous utility territories lacking a substantial number of sites for solar deployment.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I have included proposed language below, and urge a favorable vote on SB 983.

/s/

David Murray
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Article – Public Utilities

7–306.2.

(d) (3) (I) Subscribers served by electric standard offer service, community choice aggregators, and electricity suppliers may hold subscriptions to the same community solar energy generating system.

(II) 1. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, A SUBSCRIBER MUST RESIDE IN THE SAME ELECTRIC SERVICE TERRITORY AS THE COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM TO WHICH THE SUBSCRIBER HOLDS A SUBSCRIPTION.

2. AN LMI SUBSCRIBER MAY HOLD A SUBSCRIPTION TO A COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM LOCATED IN A DIFFERENT ELECTRIC SERVICE TERRITORY THAN THE ONE IN WHICH THE LMI SUBSCRIBER RESIDES.

(j) (2) (i) This paragraph applies to electric companies, electric cooperatives, and municipal utilities that participate in the Program.

(ii) A subscriber who has a change in the service address associated with the subscriber's subscription may maintain the subscription for the new address if the new address is within the same electric territory as the old address.

(iii) An electric company or a subscriber organization may not terminate a subscriber's subscription due to a change of address for the service address associated with the subscription if the requirements under subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph are met.

(iv) An electric company shall make any changes necessary to accommodate a subscriber's change of address on notification by a subscriber organization.

(O) (1) AN LMI SUBSCRIBER THAT RESIDES IN A DIFFERENT ELECTRIC SERVICE TERRITORY THAN THE COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM SHALL RECEIVE THE SAME BILL CREDIT VALUE AS AN LMI

SUBSCRIBER THAT RESIDES IN THE SAME ELECTRIC SERVICE TERRITORY AS THE COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM.

(2) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2026, BY ORDER OR REGULATION, THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY SOLAR BILL CREDITS TO THE BILL OF A LMI SUBSCRIBER REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM IS LOCATED IN THE SAME ELECTRIC SERVICE TERRITORY AS THE LMI SUBSCRIBER.

(3) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2026, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE OR AMEND AND APPROVE THE TARIFFS AND PROTOCOLS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.