

SB0931_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0931 – FAVORABLE

Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act)

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0931, Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act)

This bill seeks to ensure that solar power is part of the energy generation portfolio in Maryland and creates guidelines to apply for that inclusion. Solar power can and should be part of the goals Maryland has established to meet the climate change crisis. It will do modeling and force electric companies to provide to Maryland integrated resource plans that can guide the Public Service Commission decision making through reference to those plans.

Solar energy technology combats climate change by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and providing a clean and renewable alternative.

Solar energy has the potential to help reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse emissions by replacing traditional sources of electricity — like fossil fuels — with [clean, renewable energy](#).

A significant decrease in emissions is essential to positively affect climate change and improving air quality worldwide. ¹

Maryland is a leader in the nation working to mitigate climate change in our nation and state. ²

On April 8, 2022, the Climate Solutions Now Act, [SB 528](#), became law. The bill, sponsored by Senator Paul Pinsky, set the nation's leading interim goal of a 60% reduction below 2006 emissions by 2031, with a requirement to reach net-zero by 2045.

¹ <https://blog.ecoflow.com/us/can-solar-energy-stop-climate-change/#:~:text=By%20decreasing%20the%20use%20of,change%20in%20a%20meaningful%20way.>

² <https://ncelenviro.org/articles/maryland-passes-the-climate-solutions-now-act/#:~:text=On%20April%208%2C%20the%20Climate,reach%20net%2Dzero%20by%202045.>

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[Among the ways] to accomplish this, the bill:

- incorporates long-term and ongoing electric distribution planning to facilitate decarbonization
- requires state agencies to consider the long-term climate and equity impacts of their policies

This bill works to meet the Climate Solutions Now Act points of emphasis by altering the factors the Public Service Commission must consider before taking final action on a certificate of public convenience and necessity. This occurs by establishing certain requirements for the construction of a certain solar energy generating station or energy storage device. It forces better planning through requiring the Commission to conduct a certain study to establish a process by which the Commission may establish partnerships between electric companies and electricity suppliers for electricity generation projects.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0931.