

February 26, 2025

Honorable C. T. Wilson, Chair  
Honorable Brian Crosby, Vice Chair  
Economic Matters Committee Room 231  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment  
2 West Miller  
Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **SB 931 | HB 1036 – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT**

Dear Members of the Economic Matters and Education, Energy and Environment Committees,

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.

TPE commends Senator Feldman, Chair Wilson and Vice Chair Crosby for their leadership on clean energy permitting and siting. We strongly favor SB 931 | HB 1036 for the following reasons:

**Robust and practical siting standards, as proposed in SB 931 | HB 1036, represent a sensible and thoughtful approach to solar energy siting.**

In general, the requirements related to site design, construction and operation, are both reasonable and thorough from the perspective of TurningPoint Energy. As our company aims to maximize community and ecosystem service benefits associated with our solar projects, SB 931 | HB 1036 set an appropriately high bar for the statewide industry – and balance various stakeholder concerns related to solar development.

**Developing a statewide permitting regime for energy storage underpins Maryland’s opportunity to benefit from this technology.**

Despite the ambitious statewide target of 3,300 MW of energy storage deployment, there is no process by which standalone energy storage may be permitted via Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN.) SB 931 | HB 1036 makes this important change, offering clarity to developers like TPE as we explore where energy storage can best deliver financial benefits and grid resiliency to Marylanders.

**TPE respectfully proposes an amendment to support additional market certainty to clean energy development.**

Based off SB1022 (Senator C. Jackson), implementation of cross utility crediting for low to moderate income (LMI) households would ensure community solar development will continue in Maryland’s best sites for solar deployment. As the current community solar program requires

subscribers live in the same utility territory as the solar facility, there is a looming mismatch between potential beneficiaries of community solar – particularly low to moderate income households – and the location of facilities. Based on an analysis of proposed development in the public interconnection queue, future community solar deployment will quickly exceed likely demand from low to moderate income customers in DPL territory – while barely reaching greater than 3% of customers in Pepco or 7% of customers in BGE. Thus, by 2030, community solar deployment may cease in the region while other territories maintain substantial demand for subscribers. Limiting cross utility crediting to LMI households maintains the program’s core intent to maximize equity outcomes from solar development, while growing the state’s clean energy resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I have included proposed language below. TPE also supports the proposed amendments submitted by the solar trade associations.

/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.**