

HB0061_Solar_Canopies_for_School_Parking_Lots_MLC_

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



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.

EEE LOS HB 61- CI .pdf

Uploaded by: Joshua Feldmark

Position: FAV



Bill HB 61: Public School Construction and Renovation: Solar Canopies for School Parking Lots - Underground Infrastructure

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

CI Renewables is pleased to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 61, which now, as amended, would require that new construction and major renovation projects of public school buildings evaluate the opportunity for solar canopy installations in school parking lots.

As a company dedicated to advancing clean energy solutions, we recognize the critical importance of planning infrastructure with sustainability in mind. Solar canopies not only reduce energy costs for schools but also contributes significantly to Maryland's renewable energy goals. By requiring an evaluation of plausibility before initial construction or renovation, HB 61 ensures cost-efficiency, eliminates future retrofitting expenses, and accelerates the deployment of solar technologies across the state.

We respectfully urge the Committee to provide a favorable report on HB 61. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joshua Feldmark
Senior Vice President
Joshua.feldmark@cirenew.com

HB0061 - Crossover - FAV - School Buildings - Sola

Uploaded by: Landon Fahrig

Position: FAV



Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: MEA
SUBJECT: HB0061 - School Buildings - Solar Technologies - Parking Lot Solar Canopies
DATE: March 20, 2025

MEA Position: FAVORABLE

House Bill 61 would require that the design development documents for the construction or major renovation of a school include parking lot solar canopies in the evaluation of the use of solar technologies.

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) supports the sponsor's intent of increasing solar installation to achieve Maryland's clean energy goals and recognizes that our public schools can be an additional driver in achieving those goals. Beyond boosting clean energy, school-based solar projects offer unique opportunities to integrate clean energy into the curriculum. Currently, MEA manages its Decarbonizing Public Schools Program, which supports solar for public schools.

Parking lot collar canopies provide multiple benefits, including shielding vehicles from the elements while producing solar energy on an area that would otherwise be unfit for energy production. For these reasons, MEA urges the committee to adopt a **favorable report as amended by the House**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this additional information. For questions, please contact Megan Outten at megan.outten@maryland.gov or 443.842.1780.

Testimony.HB61_Delegate Lorig Charkoudian Senate.d

Uploaded by: Lorig Charkoudian

Position: FAV

LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
Legislative District 20
Montgomery County

Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Public Utilities

Chair, Unemployment Insurance



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 61- PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION - SOLAR CANOPIES FOR SCHOOL PARKING LOTS - UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN

MARCH 20TH, 2025

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Installing solar panels in parking lots has many advantages.¹ They generate clean energy that can be sent directly into the electrical grid or can be used to charge electric vehicles parked below the canopy. Parking lots occupy land that has already been developed and are located near where the electricity is actually being used; decreasing the need to situate solar arrays on undeveloped land and costly transmission or distribution upgrades. The canopies themselves provide shade from the sun and shelter from rain and snow.

House Bill 61 will ensure that the potential benefits and cost savings of parking lot solar canopies are considered during school construction. Current statute requires evaluation of the use of solar technologies—including photovoltaic or solar water heating—during design and development of school construction, but does not specifically require evaluation of the use of parking lot solar canopies. HB 61 will amend Md. Code, Educ. § 5-319 to specifically require evaluation of the use of parking lot solar canopies while new construction is being done on schools (i.e. while the asphalt on parking lots is already ripped up).

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 61.

¹<https://www.wired.com/story/france-solar-panels-parking-lots/#:~:text=The%20biggest%20concern%2C%20though%2C%20is,to%20build%20the%20supporting%20structure.>

HB0161 Health Sex Education in MD.pdf

Uploaded by: Jean Benhoff

Position: UNF

Witness: Jean Miceli Benhoff
Jurisdiction: Baltimore County
Bill: HB0161
Position: Strongly Oppose

Currently, each local board of education must establish policies, guidelines, and procedures for a parent or guardian to opt their student out of the family life and human sexuality topic. I agree with that policy.

Parents know what is best for their children, not the Maryland Board of Education, i.e. government. I strongly disagree with the change that a local board may not authorize a parent or guardian to opt the student out of education related to HIV and AIDS prevention. I do not believe the State should mandate that students of any age in elementary, middle or high school demonstrate the ability to apply prevention and treatment knowledge, skills, and strategies to reduce susceptibility and manage diseases, such as infections that are sexually transmitted, including HIV.

This is the job of the parents. Consequently, I and like-minded parents should still be allowed to have the freedom granted to us by the Maryland and United States Constitution to educate our children when and how we feel it is best especially regarding sex education. To indoctrinate these young minds is just morally wrong.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Benhoff
I vote!