



January 24, 2025

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Executive Director

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SUPPORT: HB4 - Restrictions on Use - Solar Collector Systems - Alteration

Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports HB4 (Restrictions on Use - Solar Collector Systems - Alteration) and we thank Delegate Smith for her leadership on this issue.

In 2019, the Maryland General Assembly renewed its commitment to expanding renewable energy by establishing a directive to have 50% of its energy consumption coming from renewable sources by the year 2030. Within this goal is the mandate that 14.5% of that renewable energy would come from solar energy generation. This goal has been embraced by Governor Moore, who has expressed his commitment to expand this goal still further, and reach 100% clean electricity. In order to achieve these goals, the state must take every opportunity to ease the path for solar energy generation, especially where it can have co-benefits to individuals or communities, such as rooftop and parking canopy installations.

HB4 provides an important opportunity for the state to reach its ambitious solar energy generation goals through allowing communities to participate in the clean energy economy. Unnecessary obstacles from Homeowner Associations prevents individual homeowners from reaping the financial benefits of discounted energy costs that can come from net metering and individual rooftop solar installations. Expanding the market of rooftop solar will also help to ease some of the pressure on open space ground-mount installations by supporting a diversified path to reaching the critical 14.5% solar goal.

HB4 is one of several bills that will be before the General Assembly this year that will advance our renewable energy goals and help us build our clean energy economy. Solar energy is proven to be effective, efficient, and impactful both for the clean energy it creates, as well as for the expanded market for jobs to install and maintain the systems. HB 4 if implemented will help the state make progress towards meeting its solar generation goal.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on this important bill.