

SB0344_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0344- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Property Tax - Agricultural Use Assessment - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems

TO: Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0344, **Property Tax - Agricultural Use Assessment - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems**

This bill is submitted in response to the Federal Administration abandonment of solar energy as part of electrical generation in the United States and removal of tax incentives to adopt solar energy.

The Solar Energy Industries Association explained this onerous action - *EXPLAINED: The Clean Energy Provisions in the "One Big Beautiful Bill."*¹

On July 4, [2025], President Trump signed the "One Big Beautiful Bill." The bill makes steep cuts to solar energy and places new restrictions on energy tax credits that will slow the deployment of residential and utility-scale solar while undermining the growth of U.S. manufacturing.

EnergySage explained *The solar tax credit is ending—we answer 10 questions keeping you up at night*²

The clock is ticking on one of the biggest solar incentives in American history. Homeowners have until January 1, 2026 to claim the [30% federal tax credit](#)—a benefit that can shave thousands of dollars off your solar investment.

The average [solar panel system costs](#) around \$28,000, or about \$2.50 per watt, according to EnergySage's latest [Marketplace Report](#). With the tax credit, that drops to approximately \$19,400—a savings of roughly \$9,000. But the "Big Beautiful Bill," [signed by President Trump](#) on July 4, eliminated the tax credit years ahead of schedule.

Maryland aims for 100% clean electricity by 2035 and net-zero emissions by 2045, driven by the Climate Solutions Now Act. Current targets include 50% renewable energy by 2030, with a 14.5% solar carve-out by 2028 and significant expansion of offshore wind.³

To contravene Federal inaction and dropped support for solar energy this bill will alter the date from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2030, by which certain community solar energy generating systems must be approved by the Public Service Commission in order for land that is used by the community solar energy generating systems to qualify for the agricultural use assessment.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0344.

¹ <https://seia.org/research-resources/clean-energy-provisions-big-beautiful-bill/>

² <https://www.energysage.com/news/solar-tax-credit-ending-questions-answered/>

³ Google AI Search "Maryland renewable energy goals"