

TESTIMONY FOR SB0341- FAVORABLE

SB0341 - Public Utilities – Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (AFFORDABLE SOLAR ACT)

Bill Sponsors: Senators Brooks, Kramer, and Lam

Committee: Education, Energy, and Environment

Position: FAVORABLE

February 17, 2026

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

My name is Mona Guilfoil, and I live in Union Bridge in Carroll County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB0341, the Affordable Solar Act. I am in the process of having solar panels installed on my house. I could not afford to purchase the system outright---the most cost- effective way for a homeowner to regroup an investment in solar--- due to the end of the federal residential solar tax credits on December 31, 2025. I am securing my solar system instead through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The solar panels on my house will not be owned by me but by the commercial installer; I will be purchasing the energy produced by the panels for a set monthly fee of roughly \$275---quite a savings from my average monthly utility bill of \$364. This monthly fee will not escalate but will remain at \$275 for the 25-year term of the PPA. In the meantime, my neighbor's utility bill , without solar, is estimated to increase 4% each year. Sure, I am saving myself money, but the major reason I am going solar is to make a statement that I firmly believe in the evidence that solar energy is the fastest and most cost effective way to build new electricity generation, to lower utility bills, stabilize costs, and provide clean and renewable energy for us and for our children. In addition, plug-in or balcony solar would make some of these benefits available to Marylanders who rent, can't afford roof-top solar, or own homes with too much shade or unsuitable roofs.

Please, make solar affordable for all Marylanders. Vote in favor of SB 0341.