



March 23, 2026

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

On behalf of Tesla, I write in support of the automated permitting and remote inspections provisions in HB 1532. Tesla is a leader in residential energy solutions, having deployed over 1.1 million residential battery energy storage systems globally, including nearly 6,000 solar and battery systems in Maryland. We applaud the Assembly's work to build upon the Brighter Tomorrow Act and urge the Senate to adopt these policy improvements.

Maryland faces an urgent energy affordability crisis. Improving residential energy permitting and inspections will help distributed solar and battery systems to deploy quickly, bringing online much-needed energy capacity that can benefit all ratepayers. At present, households trying to control their energy bills by adopting residential renewable energy systems must navigate red tape, high fees, and opaque processes that make installing solar and battery energy storage expensive and time consuming. This barrier persists at a time when the Maryland Public Service Commission and the utilities are working hard to stand up programs that can aggregate residential energy systems and use their collective capabilities to meet grid needs. Slow and outdated permitting processes threaten to hamper the future scale of those aggregation programs, acting as a potential bottleneck for using customer-sited resources to address the needs of the grid and ratepayers more broadly.

To be clear, the permitting and inspections language as currently drafted represent a significant improvement over the status quo. HB 1532 improves the performance expectations of permitting platforms, closes loopholes, addresses protracted inspection timelines, and adds enforcement pathways. The language could be strengthened even further by removing language that could lead to double review (1-1320(c)(5)(I)(5)), double inspection (1-1320(c)(2)(III)), or inflexibility in utility coordination (1-1320(f)). Independent research by the [National Laboratory of the Rockies](#) and the [Interstate Renewable Energy Council](#) show that projects using automated permit review have higher level of code compliance, and that remote inspections are as safe as in-person inspections. Maryland localities' full adoption of automated permitting and remote inspections, backed up by enforcement provisions, would help usher in a more affordable, reliable, distributed, and sustainable energy future.

We respectfully urge the General Assembly to strengthen and adopt the permitting and inspections language in HB 1532. These policies are a safe and practical step toward energy affordability for Maryland families.

Respectfully,

/s/ Dominic Gatti

Policy Advisor, Energy Policy

Tesla Inc.

dgatti@tesla.com