



TESTIMONY OF
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MARYLAND DIRECTOR

—
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SB0341- PUBLIC UTILITIES- SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEMS AND SOLAR RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS (AFFORDABLE SOLAR ACT)

FAVORABLE

FEBRUARY 19TH, 2026

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

The Affordable Solar Act is CCAN Action Fund's number one priority this legislative session. This essential piece of legislation is the permanent fix that Maryland needs to expand the deployment of solar energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state, stabilize the solar industry in the face of federal antagonism, and ensure the solar industry provides family sustaining jobs for Maryland residents. Further, this bill protects ratepayer funds that are collected from the Renewable Portfolio Standard to ensure those investments are used for the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Solar energy projects provide the cheapest electrons and are the quickest to build projects to add to the grid. According to Lazard (the definitive source for the levelized cost comparison between various energy resources), onshore wind and utility-scale solar are the most cost-effective sources for energy deployment and have been for the last ten years. Adding solar projects to Maryland's energy system has the ability to put downward pressure on¹ rates by increasing the amount of cheap energy produced in the state. The bill takes a targeted approach to support the solar industry by ensuring each segment of the industry is appropriately supported to ensure full deployment.

Along with stabilizing the solar industry, this bill confronts the reality that the Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard is currently not functioning. Each year since 2021, the amount of alternative compliance payments (ACPs) that have been purchased by the utility companies have been very substantial. When ACPs are purchased² instead of investing in new solar, we miss opportunities to transform our energy system and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, a recent report from MDE found that we are behind on our greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals due to this issue that has become chronic.³

In order to build a grid that is resilient and maximizes clean energy resources Maryland needs to commit to long-term programs that meet the needs of the clean energy industry and protect ratepayers. This legislation is a targeted and long-term approach that meets the needs of the moment and has been under development for many years as a balanced permanent solution.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0341.

¹ <https://www.lazard.com/news-announcements/lazard-releases-2025-levelized-cost-of-energyplus-report-pr/>

² <https://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/NatRes/IntroductiontotheRenewableEnergyPortfolioStandard.pdf>

³ <https://marylandmatters.org/2026/01/30/maryland-emissions-data-behind-goal/>