



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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**House Bill SB0341 Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits
(Affordable Solar Act)**

**Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee – February 19th, 2026
SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2026 legislative session. WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the passage of **SB0341 - Affordable Solar Act**. This bill will establish the foundation all Marylanders need to join the clean, affordable, and urgent energy transition our times demand.

Solar energy is the fastest and most cost effective way to build new electricity generation. Solar energy has the ability to lower utility bills, stabilize costs, and provide clean energy for a decarbonized future.

This bill SB0341 makes solar energy accessible to everyone whether they rent or own their home. Traditional rooftop solar is unavailable to many Marylanders, particularly renters, lower-income households, and homeowners with shaded or otherwise unsuitable roofs.

Balcony/portable solar projects make solar more widely available to low income Marylanders and renters. A typical balcony system can reduce apartment electricity bills by 10-30%.¹ The portable solar provisions open the door for renters to finally participate in the clean energy economy. We believe energy independence should be available to all Marylanders, not just those who own homes, and this bill breaks down such barriers that have kept solar access out of reach.

We ask for your support for SB0341 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cynthia Rubenstein
WDC President

Elisabeth Liisi Fidler
WDC Subcommittee on
Environment and Energy

Kate Stein
WDC Advocacy Chair

¹ Solar Tech Online, "Solar Panels For Apartment Balconies: Complete 2025 Installation Guide," (August 2025)
<https://solartechonline.com/blog/solar-panels-apartment-balcony-guide/>