



Testimony on: SB265 - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Prohibited Locations - Adjacent Parcels

Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment

Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

Submitting: Richard Deutschmann

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 19, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members:

We are providing our testimony today in strong support of SB265, repealing the prohibition on developing solar projects on adjacent parcels in the Community Solar program. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing is a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice and we urge you to vote favorably on SB265.

According to the Maryland Public Service Commission, the current Community Solar program in the state has more than 360 projects statewide in operation, under construction, or in design/development. These projects total more than 550MW of clean energy generation, and are widely distributed across every region of the state.

However, the state continues to require vast quantities of new generation, to address load growth, electrification of our buildings and transportation systems, and to improve reliability in the region. Additionally, Maryland has fallen behind on its climate goals under the Climate Solutions Now Act. And with energy affordability front and center as an issue requiring our urgent action, Community Solar continues to provide the opportunity for our Low and Moderate Income (LMI) residents to enjoy the benefits of substantial savings on their electricity bills.

SB265 makes a small change to address all of these issues, by repealing an outdated rule, and allowing the development of Community Solar projects on adjacent land parcels. This will enable new clean energy generation projects to proceed where there is a landowner wanting to participate in the program, and where nearby interconnection points are favorable. And in turn, expanding economically viable energy generation right here in Maryland, and improving energy affordability for our LMI residents.

For these reasons, we urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB265.

350MoCo

Adat Shalom Climate Action

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Project
ClimateXChange
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
IndivisibleHoCoMD
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland Third Act
Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland