

Testimony on: SB0341 - Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act) Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment

Submitting: Rhonda Kranz

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 19, 2026

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

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in support of SB0341, the Affordable Solar Act. I have lived in Maryland for 30 years and am very concerned that Maryland meets its climate goals under the Climate Solutions Now Act and addresses energy affordability especially for those with low incomes.

Maryland is facing an affordability crisis, as utility bills continue to rise at a greater rate than inflation, with the burden falling especially hard on working class families. Concurrently, the Trump administration continues its assault on the lowest cost and fastest to develop sources of new electricity generation - solar energy and windpower.

SB0341 directly addresses each of these issues, by making it easier and more cost-effective for residents in the state to utilize solar energy to reduce their utility bills for decades to come, and incentivizing new commercial and utility-scale generation that will increase reliability, lower the wholesale cost of electricity in the region, and delay the need for expensive new transmission capacity in the state.

SB0341 also ensures that our labor force earns good paying wages for building out our clean energy future. Get us back on track to fulfill the goals of the Climate Solutions Now Act. And will cut back on rising utility bills, helping our most vulnerable residents and working families with greater energy affordability.

For these reasons, I support SB0265 and urge a FAVORABLE report in Committee.