

SB341 Affordable Solar Act

Organization: Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Environmental Justice Ministry

Submitted by: Lee McNair

Position: Favorable

Committee: EEE

As people who are faith-based, we look at bills through the lens of our principles and values which call us to protect, not just ourselves, but also those among us whose voices are often not heard or disregarded. Rising utility rates make it extremely difficult for many residents to keep their utilities on even in extreme weather events.

We think this bill will help to remedy this dire situation by incentivizing more solar and battery storage. This form of energy is less expensive to build and can come online faster than some other forms of energy procurement. Plus this enables portable solar which paired with a battery will offer energy resillience to households with lower incomes.

And this bill puts Alternative Compliance Payments into an escrow account to be used to implement this new solar model without further raising ratepayer costs.

We believe this is a fair and just bill for all Maryland ratepayers and we urge you to provide a favorable outcome for SB341, the Affordable Solar Act.