

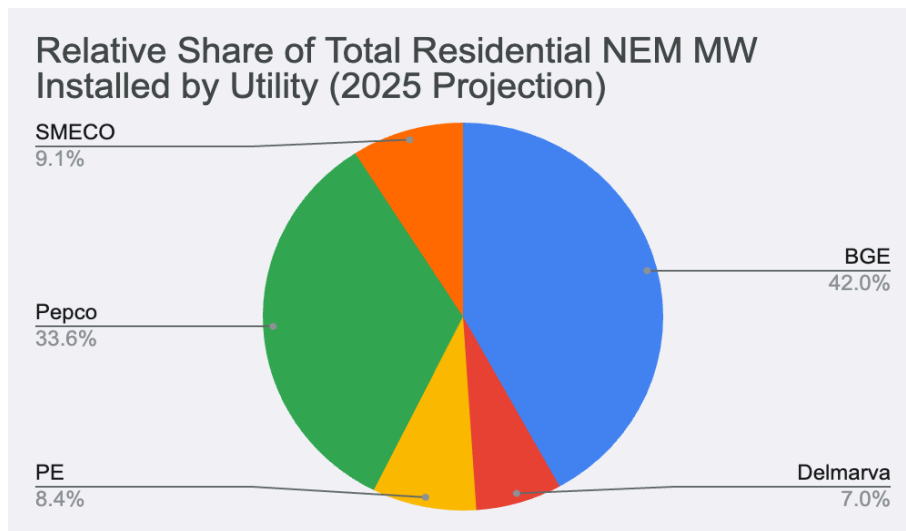
March 12, 2026
Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy & the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

TESTIMONY OF SUNRUN ON SB 966; FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

To the Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Sunrun is the nation’s largest provider of residential solar and storage services, with over 1.1 million customers across the country and a significant presence in Maryland. All of our residential customers in Maryland are currently taking service under the net energy metering program, which has led to the successful deployment of nearly a nuclear power plant worth of capacity dispersed on residential rooftops across the state over the past decade. Net metering has been the primary driver of customer adoption of solar across the country, with over five million households utilizing solar to offset their purchases from their utility, exerting some control over their household energy costs. According to the United States Energy Information Administration, there are over 117,000 households in Maryland that use net metering to take some control over their electric bills.

Chart 1. Relative Share of Residential NEM Among MD Utilities (EIA Data)



Historically, net metering has been viewed negatively by utilities as a source of revenue erosion and competition. Net metering reduces the number of units (kWh) sold by a utility, which means a utility might theoretically raise rates in order to collect enough revenue to meet their Commission approved revenue requirement (which includes a rate of return). Of course, rooftop solar can help reduce the utility revenue requirement by reducing the need to build infrastructure and can help lower peak-demand driven market costs that get passed through to ratepayers. A true determination of whether rooftop solar net metering puts a downward or an upward pressure on rates is highly technical and requires sophisticated methodological approaches and must take into account the current trends driving load and demand growth. This is far more complex than the cursory information presented in the Commission's annual net metering reports, which simply reports out the utilities' reported cost of net metering credits and does not appear to incorporate any offsetting values in producing a theoretical bill impact analysis.

With appreciation to the thoughtful approach put forward by Speaker Peña-Melnyk, HB 1476 (and its cross-file SB 966) will require the Commission to undertake a process—with industry experts and other stakeholders—to strike a balance that achieves the state's overriding goal of improving affordability while leveraging the positive attributes of customer-sited renewable energy resources. Sunrun believes that SB 966, with amendments proposed by the Speaker, will give net metering its “day in court” to adjudicate the relevant costs and benefits for residential solar customers. While SB 966 does not guarantee an outcome of this proceeding, as amended it should provide substantive and procedural fairness and give advocates the opportunity to make their case for a successor that meets the goals of the General Assembly and the needs of all ratepayers.

Notwithstanding this support for SB 966, Sunrun believes that rooftop solar has produced significant benefits to Marylanders, both net metering participants and non-participants alike, and that our customers are an integral part of the solution to the current energy crisis. Customers that consume their own power put less strain on the grid and send any excess to be consumed nearby by neighbors, avoiding reliance on imported power or use of the transmission system to transport those electrons. These attributes are amplified when customers are encouraged to adopt battery storage and participate in time-of-use rates or grid support services to optimize the value of their assets to the grid.

With amendments addressing legislative intent to embrace the evolution to more flexible customer-sited generation, SB 966 presents an opportunity, through a PSC-led process, to harmonize a successor program with other state energy policies and priorities. With this additional direction to the Commission, the purpose of the future proceeding is not to just determine the mathematical equation of what an electron is worth. Rather, this additional direction could instruct the Commission to develop a more holistic policy that achieves the greatest amount of public good with the lowest amount of impact on rates.

Sunrun also appreciates and supports amendments that will keep the faith with existing net metering customers who invested private capital in rooftop solar facilities to engage in the current form of net metering. Sunrun believes that it is essential to make clear that existing customers taking service before a successor is adopted will not be affected by changes to the program through a successor tariff. This is a common sense and fair approach that has been followed in nearly every net metering transition across the country.

With amendments to establish clear legacy rights for existing customers and legislative intent to evolve net metering into a more beneficial policy that addresses multiple state objectives, Sunrun supports a favorable report of SB 966.

/s/

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