



February 17, 2026

Re: FAVORABLE – SB 265 – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems – Prohibited Locations – Adjacent Parcels

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

On behalf of Ameresco, a leading community solar developer and energy solutions provider, we respectfully submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 265. This legislation makes a targeted but important clarification to the Community Solar Energy Generating Systems (CSEGS) statute by removing the restriction under which development on unrelated adjacent parcels can trigger collocation limitations.

Under existing law, an unintended consequence can arise in which two independent solar developers on neighboring properties effectively block one another from fully siting their respective CSEGS projects. PUA § 7-306.2 allows a CSEGS of up to 5 megawatts and permits collocation of up to 10 megawatts only if additional requirements are met, such as serving at least 75% low- and moderate-income (LMI) subscribers or incorporating agrivoltaics. The current adjacent-parcel provision creates significant risk that a late-stage project could be unexpectedly impacted by an unrelated development on neighboring land, triggering collocation requirements that were not anticipated. This situation can prevent otherwise eligible projects from moving forward and discourages efficient use of suitable land, undermining the intent of the community solar program.

SB 265 resolves this issue by eliminating the adjacent-parcel aggregation rule while maintaining the existing safeguards that apply to projects located on the same parcel. The bill ensures that separate landowners and developers can fully utilize their own properties without inadvertently triggering collocation restrictions intended for a single site.

Clear and consistent statewide laws and regulations are essential to successful long-term investments in community solar that deliver bill savings, grid reliability, and local economic development for Maryland residents and businesses. SB 265 will help ensure that high-quality, well-sited projects can move forward in partnership with Maryland's counties and communities.

By clarifying this provision, the legislation will support continued growth of community solar, improve access for subscribers — including low- and moderate-income households — and prevent unnecessary project conflicts that delay deployment of clean energy resources.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 265.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jonathan Mancini
Senior Vice President
Ameresco, Inc.