February 17, 2026

RE: Senate Bill (SB) 265: Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Prohibited Locations - Adjacent Parcels – Favorable

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

Introduction: Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 54. Chaberton Energy is a Maryland-based distributed energy developer focused on community solar and storage. A public benefit corporation, Chaberton is one of the largest developers in the Maryland Community Solar Energy Systems ("CSEGS") Program. Chaberton has over 200 Megawatts of community solar, commercial solar, and storage in active development here in Maryland. With a total development pipeline of more than one Gigawatt and over 100 Megawatts of projects completed, Chaberton is one of the fastest growing energy companies in the nation, ranked 53rd on the 2025 and 34th on the 2024 Inc. 5000 lists.

Background: The Community Solar Permanent Program (Program), which was established by House Bill 908 during the 2023 Regular Session, established that Community Solar Energy Generating System (CSEGS) projects are those with a generating capacity above 2 Megawatts (MW) but no more than 5 MW. Furthermore, it established specific allowances for the co-location of these projects up to 10 MW. Currently, the Program restricts co-located CSEGS projects from being located on the same or adjacent parcels unless they meet specific requirements. These requirements include the incorporation of agrivoltaics, serving at least 75% low-to-moderate income (LMI) subscribers, or are developed in specified locations (brownfields, rooftops, areas zoned for industrial use, etc.).

Comments: Restricting CSEGS projects from being co-located on adjacent parcels has created significant uncertainty and risk in project development. Many developers, including Chaberton, have begun the costly and timely process of developing a project on a parcel to find late in the process that another developer is doing the same on an adjacent parcel. At such a late stage, the developer of each project has incurred significant cost prior to being made aware that their projects must now incorporate co-location requirements. The locations of these projects have already been determined. Therefore, each project must now incorporate either a 75% LMI subscriber base or agrivoltaics. These requirements add significant risk to development. There have been multiple instances of separate projects, on land owned by non-affiliated landowners and being developed by non-affiliated companies, being unintentionally developed on parcels which share common boundaries which therefore are adjacent. There are no current mechanisms for notification in this instance, leading to unmanageable risk in project development.

Maryland currently imports approximately 40 percent of its electricity. Our reliance on high volatility energy prices through PJM exposes ratepayers to rising costs and uncertain utility bills. To address this critical issue, the State must pursue practical solutions that protect ratepayers and strengthen grid reliability. Expanding in-state community solar will reduce dependence on the PJM marketplace, improve resilience, and deliver meaningful bill savings for Marylanders. Solar continues to be the fastest, most cost-effective generation available. SB 265 would facilitate ratepayer savings goals while supporting this type of energy generation by lifting a costly restriction on co-location.

Conclusion: For the reasons stated above, Chaberton strongly supports SB 265 and respectfully urges a favorable report. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out should the Committee have any questions.