

February 17, 2026

TESTIMONY ON SB341 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Utilities – Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act)

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

FROM: Jerry Kickenson

My name is Jerry Kickenson. I am a resident of District 18 and I am submitting this testimony in support of SB341, Public Utilities – Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act).

Maryland is well behind in its goals for renewable energy generation and contributing to reduction in fossil fuel use and its harm to our climate and environment, as well as fossil fuel generation's disproportionate impact on the poor and communities of color.

Renewable energy, especially solar energy, is available now and is also by many measures the least expensive energy generation option. In a period of rising electricity costs to ratepayers, this clean and cheapest source of electric power should be encouraged and supported by the state of Maryland. It's only common sense!

SB341 will reform Maryland's existing solar incentives programs in several important ways: establishing a dedicated funding instrument for solar energy, supporting 4 GW of additional solar capacity beyond 2028 divided between utility scale and smaller distributed sources, reforming how SRECs (Solar Renewable Energy Credits) are procured and priced, and expanding access to solar power through portable and "balcony" solar installation.

These measures, taken together, promise to support Maryland's climate, environmental and environmental justice goals while also putting downward pressure on consumer electric prices. A win-win!

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB341, Public Utilities – Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act).

Respectfully,

Jerry Kickenson

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