



12 March 2026

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Oral and Written Testimony

SB843: Net Energy Metering, SUNRISE Program, and Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program (SUNRISE Act)

Position: Favorable

Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

The Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA), the Chesapeake Solar and Storage Association (CHESSA), the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), and the Maryland Rooftop Solar Coalition (MRSC) respectfully submit this joint **Favorable** testimony in support of Senate Bill 843.

CCSA is a national, business-led trade organization, composed of over 100 member companies, that works to expand access to clean, local, affordable energy nationwide through the development of robust community solar programs. Community solar projects involve medium-scale solar facilities that are shared by multiple community subscribers who receive credit on their electricity bills for their share of the power produced.

CHESSA is a regional trade association representing solar installers, developers, manufacturers, and other solar workers in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. CHESSA’s mission is to create a business and policy environment that encourages mainstream solar and energy storage adoption for the benefit of consumers, communities, and the electric grid. CHESSA is a recognized state affiliate of SEIA.

SEIA is the national trade association for the United States solar and energy storage industries. As the voice of the industry, SEIA works to support solar and energy storage as they become a mainstream and significant energy source by expanding markets, reducing costs, increasing reliability, removing market barriers, and providing education on the benefits of solar energy and energy storage. SEIA collaborates with its 1,200 member companies and other strategic partners to advocate for policies that create jobs and shape fair market rules that promote competition and the growth of reliable, low-cost solar power and energy storage.

MRSC is a coalition of national, regional, and local companies committed to growing Maryland’s rooftop solar market. Our members create durable, family-supporting jobs and help Marylanders reduce and better manage their electricity bills through home solar and storage systems. MRSC

members have served Marylanders for well over a decade and hope to continue doing so for decades to come.

Our organizations represent the majority of distributed-generation companies operating in Maryland, including local installers, national developers, manufacturers, community solar providers, and residential contractors for whom the Maryland net metering program represents a necessary ingredient for them to operate in Maryland. These businesses account for hundreds of millions of dollars in private investment across the State. Solar energy, both customer-sited and community-based, is one of the most deployable and scalable energy resources available in Maryland today. It can be developed and interconnected quickly, attract private capital without long-term fuel risk, reduce peak demand, lower transmission congestion, and provide measurable system benefits to ratepayers. In the current environment of rising capacity costs and economic uncertainty, policies that provide clarity and stability for distributed generation are essential.

The SUNRISE Act acts proactively to:

- 1) Provide market stability through improved tracking and transparency as the State approaches the 3,000-megawatt (MW) net energy metering (NEM) cap;
- 2) Modernize Maryland net metering by directing the PSC to develop and implement a successor compensation program (SUNRISE) by July 1, 2027; and
- 3) Creates new, state-facilitated options for delivering community solar benefits to low-to moderate-income households to address related market challenges and affordability goals.

Over the past several months we've worked with our member companies and the sponsors to develop SB 843, or the SUNRISE Act. This legislation responds directly to Public Service Commission recommendations and growing industry concerns with the market uncertainty tied to the NEM cap, which is currently limited to 3,000 MW of operational capacity. The net metering program supports several different types of distributed solar: Residential, Commercial & Industrial, Municipal/Public, and Community Solar. These types of solar directly serve energy consumers, whether the solar projects are located at the same location as the consumer, or a different location.

While the State is only halfway to reaching that cap, with 1,537 MW of installed capacity as of June 30, 2025, the PSC highlights roughly 2,900 MW of additional community solar capacity that is not yet installed but is in various stages of development.¹ As a result, the PSC correctly finds that “this situation creates market uncertainty for projects already in development and may impede the progress of a key component of Maryland's renewable energy strategy,” and recommends the General Assembly authorize the PSC to convene a formal proceeding to “create long-term program stability and protect ratepayer interests”.

¹ Public Service Commission. Net Energy Metering in the State of Maryland. November 2025. Found here: <https://www.pscmaryland.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-Net-Metering-Report-4.pdf>

The path laid out in the SUNRISE Act is meant to create an orderly closure and transition from the current net metering program to a successor program designed to support those different types of distributed solar serving their different consumer types in the most beneficial way possible. Those benefits can then be leveraged to bring down overall grid costs through lower PJM capacity demands, lower peak demand, and increased overall Maryland energy generation. It also cements a glide path within state policy for distributed solar amidst the chaotic tempest occurring with federal energy policy.

The creation of a community solar OHEP program is specifically designed to make solar benefits more directly available to low-income households who cannot otherwise access direct solar benefits. It is designed to augment and enhance the resources that OHEP already provides at a time when energy affordability is an increasing risk for these overburdened communities. This program would address persistent barriers to enrollment and strengthen the equity outcomes of Maryland's community solar program.

We appreciate Senator Feldman and the Committee for taking up this important issue and we look forward to continuing to work together in the coming weeks to establish a legislative direction that will maintain market momentum while evolving Maryland's distributed generation program to a more value-based structure.

While we support SUNRISE, there are refinements and technical corrections needed to address errors and updates relative to the version introduced. However, with SUNRISE as well as with SB966, we intend to continue discussions with key stakeholders and will provide the Committee amendments for consideration in the coming days as we strive for consensus among the parties.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Charlie Coggeshall
Mid-Atlantic Director
Coalition for Community Solar Access

/s/

Georgina Arreola-Lennox
Director, State Affairs, Mid-Atlantic
Solar Energy Industries Association

/s/

Robin Dutta
Executive Director
Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association

/s/

Katie Rever
Treasurer
Maryland Residential Solar Coalition