

SB0341 - SUPPORT

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SB0341- Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act)

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy and Transportation Committee,

February 17, 2026

As a longtime Maryland resident and a volunteer with the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), I urge a FAVORABLE report on SB0341- Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits, the Affordable Solar Act.

Our family raced to add solar panels to our house before the federal tax credits expired at the end of 2025. We had always wanted to add solar, but due to our tree cover and restrictions from living in a historic district, we had not been able to before.

Now, with our federal government pushing us backwards, and in the midst of stunning increases in utility costs, we're doing our part by investing a significant amount of our personal savings in solar. But we're just one family making the small difference we can. We need the state of Maryland to step up and provide leadership to protect and expand renewable energy.

The Affordable Solar Act has a number of elements that I value:

- Providing a path for people living in apartments to invest in portable, plug-in solar panels.
- Requiring that 2,000 MW of industrial scale solar be constructed in Maryland, providing a pathway to cheaper, more reliable electricity that can be in place much faster than other sources.
- Reducing Maryland's dependence on PJM.
- Requiring the Public Service Commission (PSC) to conduct competitive procurements for utility scale solar and ensure that the new systems are built with the best value for rate-payers.

- Ensuring that the Alternative Compliance Payments (ACPs) that have already been paid by rate payers will be put into an escrow account used to implement this new solar model.

For these reasons, I strongly support this bill and urge a **FAVORABLE report on SB0341**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susy Cheston