



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

SB966: Public Service Commission – Net Energy Metering – Successor Program

Position: Favorable with Amendments

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 Residential Solar Coalition (MRSC) respectfully submit this joint testimony, **Favorable with Amendments**, for Senate Bill 966.

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 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.

While we firmly support the SUNRISE Act (SB 843) as a solution for maintaining much-needed clean energy growth in Maryland, we appreciate the introduction of SB 966 which aims to accomplish similar objectives. As with SUNRISE, SB 966 would task the Public Service Commission (PSC) with evaluating the net energy metering (NEM) framework and developing a successor program. However, we believe that targeted amendments are necessary to ensure that SB 966 would support both market stability and ratepayer interests.

Most importantly, we believe that amendments are needed in SB 966 to ensure the current NEM framework is maintained for operating and maturely developed projects that fall within the 3,000-megawatt cap, and then establishes a certain glide path for distributed solar projects under development in a manner that follows these principles:

- **Safeguard Existing and Under-Development Solar Capacity:** Projects currently in development are racing to meet construction deadlines set by H.R 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill. These and operating projects were financed under the assumption of NEM and are critical to backfilling the loss of federal tax credits.
- **Implement A Transparent Transition:** Ensure that the current program remains available for projects where significant financial investments have already been made. This includes signing a lease or purchasing property, starting the interconnection process, and acquiring state or local permits. This will also prevent a "rush" of purely speculative applications while honoring legitimate business commitments based on current law.
- **Achievable Transition Milestones:** Define criteria for transition eligibility based on what project developers can better control, such as submitting completed interconnection applications or constructing the project to mechanical completion of the system. Milestones that require other parties' timely actions, such as commercial operation date or the calculation/invoicing of interconnection deposits, may not be reached because of delays by those other parties despite the project developer being ready to act.

- PSC-Led Valuation Process: Utilize a PSC-led process to fairly account for the value of the different types of distributed solar and storage. This ensures that Maryland's fastest-growing in-state energy resource is compensated based on the real-world benefits it provides to the grid and the environment.

It is critical that legislation protect projects that have made binding financial commitments under the existing rules. Retroactive changes to compensation structures would undermine Maryland's regulatory credibility and create significant disruption to the market by stranding projects and effectively freezing investment and development. Milestones that ensure eligibility for projects mid-development should be achievable and within the control of the project developers. There are many states now that have gone through the exercise of developing successor programs for NEM, of which Maryland can leverage that experience.

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/

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