



## Neighborhood Sun

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Testimony on SB 843

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

March 5, 2026

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Neighborhood Sun is a Maryland based Benefit Corporation that aggregates and manages subscribers for community solar projects across the state. We have been active since the original legislation was passed in 2015 and are happy to see the strong growth in the market. Thousands of Marylanders are able to save money while supporting local solar projects that help clean our air and reduce our carbon footprint as a state. We have successfully subscribed projects in all four of the major Investor-Owned Utilities in Maryland. However, as the program moves forward, we share the concern of many about the ability to subscribe low and moderate income (LMI) residents in the Delmarva Power and Light (DPL) territory and the Potomac Edison/First Energy (PEFE) territory. Therefore, we support the intentions of SB 843, though we want to make sure there is work done on the bill to maximize its positive impact.

The part of the bill that we are concerned about is the part regarding the creation of a program to automatically enroll LMI residents in community solar. This part of the legislation is extremely complicated and involves coordination between the solar developers, subscriber managers, the utilities and various government agencies. That does not sound like a recipe for success. The hallmark of good policy is simplicity and this fails the test. The problem we are trying to solve here is to address the fact that there are not that many LMI households in DPL or PEFE relative to the number of proposed projects in the pipeline. Rather than the approach outlined in SB 843, I recommend something more simple and direct. LMI subscribers should be credited at 2x compared to other subscribers. Any excess credits at the end of the year should be paid out to the LMI subscriber at full retail rates. Doing this simple step would double the amount of community solar an LMI subscriber can utilize and in essence double the number of potential households available in the market. There would be no need for new government bureaucracies, or complicated accounting techniques. Everyone wins.

We would be happy to participate in any work group to help amend and improve this important piece of legislation.

Gary Skulnik

CEO

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