



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

Written Testimony of Maryland Rooftop Solar Coalition

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS Re: House Bill 1532 - Utility RELIEF (Reducing Energy Load Inflation for Everyday Families) Act

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Maryland Rooftop Solar Coalition, I am writing in support with amendments of HB1532, “Utility RELIEF (Reducing Energy Load Inflation for Everyday Families) Act”. Our testimony is confined to the net metering section of this bill.

The Maryland Rooftop Solar Coalition (“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.

The House made a number of important amendments to the original bill, including codifying the importance of respecting existing contracts by directing the Commission to determine the length of grandfathering for systems under net metering as well as highlighting the importance of flexible customer-sited energy resources for the future of Maryland’s grid.

There remains, however, a few critical amendments, which combined, will help ensure a that the transition from the current net metering paradigm to the future paradigm does not create undo business and customer disruption.

Section/Redline: 7-306(d)(1): d) (1) The Commission shall require electric utilities to develop a standard contract or tariff for net energy metering and make it available to eligible customer-generators **APPLYING FOR SUCH SERVICE** on a first-come, first-served basis until THE EARLIER OF:



For behind the meter systems, a customer first signs a contract to buy/lease/install a solar system, then they submit their interconnection/net metering application to the utility, and then their solar company begins to build the solar system. This amendment allows customer-generators to be eligible for the current NEM program by submitting an interconnection application, providing certainty to both customers and businesses during the transition.

Section/Redline: 7-306(d)(4)(2) : (II) IF THE SUCCESSOR PROGRAM UNDER § 7-306.4 OF THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT BEGIN BY JULY 1, 2027 WITH ELECTRIC COMPANIES HAVING FULLY UPDATED TARIFFS AND BILLING SYSTEMS SUCH THAT THEY CAN FACILITATE THE SUCCESSOR PROGRAM:

2. AN ELIGIBLE CUSTOMER-GENERATOR NO LARGER THAN 2 MEGAWATTS ALTERNATING CURRENT THAT HAS APPLIED FOR NET ENERGY METERING ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2027 AND UNTIL THE ELECTRIC COMPANIES FULLY IMPLEMENT THE SUCCESSOR PROGRAM SHALL REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR NET ENERGY METERING UNDER THIS SECTION.

In the case that the new net metering tariffs aren't fully operational by July 1, 2027, it continues to allow eligible customer generators up to 2MWac to apply for net metering under the previous net metering regime.

Particularly in this customer-facing industry, it is critical to avoid a gap in program availability. If any meaningful gap were to occur, the industry would need to stop selling systems, leading to furloughs and/or layoffs.

Section/Redline: 7-306.4(C): THE COMMISSION, BY ORDER OR REGULATION ISSUED ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 2027, SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT, AS A SUCCESSOR PROGRAM TO THE NET ENERGY METERING PROGRAM UNDER § 7-306 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A NET ENERGY METERING PROGRAM TO BEGIN JULY 1, 2027, THAT:

This amendment sets a deadline of February 1, 2027 for the PSC to issue an order or regulation establishing the successor net metering program. The behind the meter industry needs at least 5 months - ideally longer - to adjust their sales offerings, train their sales



teams, and transition their sales to a new economic paradigm. This date also provides time for utilities to submit revised tariffs and update their billing systems prior to the July 1, 2027 program start.

Additionally, we support clarification that the Commission may create separate tariffs under the successor program for distinct market segments, based on their unique characteristics.

Section/Redline: 7-306.4(c)(6): MAY ESTABLISH DIFFERENT TARIFFS UNDER THE SUCCESSOR PROGRAM FOR THE FOLLOWING MARKET SEGMENTS THAT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH MARKET SEGMENT:

(I) RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBLE CUSTOMER-GENERATORS;

(II) NONRESIDENTIAL ELIGIBLE CUSTOMER-GENERATORS;

(III) COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEMS UNDER § 7-306.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(IV) AGGREGATE NET ENERGY METERED FACILITIES UNDER § 7-306.3 OF THIS SUBTITLE;
AND

(V) ANY ADDITIONAL MARKET SEGMENT OR SUBSET OF A MARKET SEGMENT IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

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