



Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Chair Ferguson, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

FROM: MEA

SUBJECT: SB 843 - Net Energy Metering, SUNRISE Program, and Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program (SUNRISE Act)

DATE: March 12, 2026

MEA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is generally supportive of adopting a new method of incentivising net metering beyond the current 3,000 MW cap that is enshrined in law. Net metering allows access to the benefits of solar for populations that cannot, for whatever reason, install solar on their rooftops through community solar. SB 843 is largely focused on continuing the benefits of solar for these populations.

MEA would like to thank the sponsor of the bill for raising this important and timely issue, and for his historical concentration on energy and environmental issues.

MEA understands the need for certainty for community solar developers, and appreciates the bill's creation of a method of reserving capacity under the net metering scheme. However, MEA would seek changes to the proposed legislation to give the Public Service Commission (PSC) greater flexibility in determining the future incentive (beyond 3,000 MW) through an inclusive process and rulemaking.

Furthermore, MEA would seek to remove itself from subsection 7-306.2(p) of the bill. While MEA is supportive of assigning community solar generation capacity to households experiencing low income, MEA does not have the capability to identify such households. This responsibility is best left to the Office of Home Energy Programs as otherwise outlined in the bill.

MEA urges the committee to adopt the proposed amendments and to issue a **favorable report with amendments**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy manager, at megan.outten@maryland.gov or 443.842.1780.