

**Testimony on Senate Bill - FAVORABLE**

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

**Bill Sponsors:** Senators Brooks, Kramer, and Lam

**Committee:** Education, Energy, and Environment

**Position:** FAVORABLE

February 17, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gita Lefstein, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB0341, the Affordable Solar Act. One of the provisions of the bill is to make what is often referred to as “balcony solar” permissible in Maryland. Currently most people have to get their electricity through PJM regulated utilities. Because of PJM’s mismanagement of the grid, electricity costs have skyrocketed and our electricity comes mainly from fossil fuels, rather than clean energy sources. PJM is accountable to energy producers, transmitters, and distributors, rather than to consumers and voters, so this is likely to continue. In other parts of the world, and in other parts of our country, clean energy sources, which are cheaper, quicker to build, and better for the environment, are taking off. It is important for Maryland not to be left behind. Many people are unable to have rooftop solar because of being renters, living in apartment buildings, not being able to afford rooftop solar, or other reasons. They should be able to take advantage of “plug in” or “balcony solar”.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Gita Lefstein