

March 10, 2025

Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Senate Education Energy & Environment Committee
Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB 966 – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee,

TurningPoint Energy ("TPE") is a solar and battery storage development and investment company, with over 1 gigawatt of community solar developed across the United States and 21 megawatts in Maryland alone. We were proud to participate in Maryland's community solar pilot program since its inception in 2015 and continue to invest heavily in the state's clean energy future.

TPE applauds the Speaker and Senator Feldman for emphasizing the value of distributed energy to Maryland's electricity grid. By setting a new target of 6,000 MW, the legislation calls for innovative structures to rapidly deploy solar – and other distributed energy resources – in Maryland.

Setting the Stage for Future Projects

SB 966 outlines a process by which the Public Service Commission will closely review the value of distributed energy resources on Maryland's grid, taking into account the importance of additional in-state clean energy resources, grid resiliency benefits, and any costs or benefits to non-participating customers. Such studies have taken place in other states to inform future rate design, and TPE supports a robust process lead by the Commission. The annual "Net Energy Metering in the State of Maryland" report released by the Commission on November 20th, 2025 - which recommended the General Assembly begin this process - does not assess the benefits distributed energy provides to the grid or ratepayers. Such a process is imperative to inform the future of distributed energy development in Maryland.

Recommended Amendment: Maintain Net Metering for Projects in Development

A community solar project takes three to six years to develop. Getting from the first kitchen table conversation with a prospective landowner to delivering the first electrons to neighbors requires robust geotechnical and environmental work, coordination with state and local agencies, and years of technical studies and analysis by the distribution utility. For example, TPE's very first projects we started developing under Maryland's permanent community solar program – which passed in 2023 – will not complete construction until 2027 or 2028.

State energy policy is what governs how community solar is developed. Thus our project pipeline is shaped by the creation of the permanent community solar program in 2023, and the 3,000-megawatt net energy metering cap established by the General Assembly in 2021. This legislation created community solar tariffs, and tariffs inform what type of lease is signed with a prospective host landowner, or whether or not a project can financially upgrade utility infrastructure and connect to the grid. Should SB 966 be enacted as-written, TPE would not be able to continue developing projects due to the level of uncertainty on the successor tariff.

We appreciate the Speaker and her staff's receptivity to ensure that the process outlined in the current draft does not result in period of uncertainty for solar development, and respectfully support proposed amendment language via the solar trade associations (Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association, Coalition of Community Solar Access, and the Solar Energy Industries Association) that balances the goals of clean energy deployment and the creation of a successor program to the existing net energy metering cap.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with you and Members of the Committee on this and other energy legislation.

Thank you,
/s/
David Murray
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