



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

Testimony: [SB0265](#) – **Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Prohibited Locations - Adjacent Parcels**
Hearing Date: Feb. 19, 2026
Bill Sponsor: Senator Brooks
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Submitting: Liz Feighner for Howard County Climate Action
Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members,

[HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. We are also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#). Our organization works with residents and ally organizations to promote a safe climate and clean energy future. Specifically, we have worked extensively on clean energy and on building electrification to help Maryland achieve its ambitious climate goals, including net-zero emissions.

We urge you to vote favorably on **SB0265 – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Prohibited Locations - Adjacent Parcels**, which would repeal an outdated rule, and allow the development of Community Solar projects on adjacent land parcels. This will enable new clean energy generation projects to proceed where there is a landowner wanting to participate in the program, and where nearby interconnection points are favorable.

As Maryland families continue to be burdened by ever increasing utility rates, Hoco Climate Action supports legislation that increases in-state solar which strengthens grid reliability and lower cost for ratepayers. The state continues to require vast quantities of new generation, to address immense data center load growth and the need to improve reliability in the region. Solar is the cheapest and quickest way to increase in-state clean energy generation.

Removing outdated barriers for solar growth in Maryland is necessary and urgent. Maryland has fallen behind on its climate goals under the Climate Solutions Now Act. With energy affordability front and center as an issue requiring our urgent action, Community Solar continues to provide an important opportunity for our Low and Moderate Income (LMI) residents to enjoy the benefits of substantial savings on their electricity bills.

For these reasons, we support **SB0265** and recommend a **favorable** report.

Howard County Climate Action
Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee
www.HoCoClimateAction.org
HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com