



February 19, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony of Ray Baker, Maryland Director, Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council on
SB 341: Public Utilities – Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act)
Position: FAVORABLE**

Thank you, Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, for the opportunity to offer testimony on SB341. I am Ray Baker, Maryland Director of the Baltimore-DC Building Trades (BDCBT). The BDCBT's 28 affiliates represent more than 30,000 union construction workers across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The BDCBT supports SB341 which supports investments in solar energy production with the establishment of the Distributed Solar Facilities Incentive Program, all to develop thousands of megawatts of additional solar energy. Given the needs of the state, it is imperative that we continue to develop multiple mechanisms of addressing our need for energy production. This investment will help Maryland lower household utility bills, provide stable and predictable energy prices, meet clean energy goals, and continue a build out of a modernized, decarbonized power grid.

The build out is important to construction workers in Maryland. This legislation ensures workers will be paid prevailing wage rates and have the necessary labor standards and protections to deliver top of the line, high quality work. Additionally, the BDCBT and our affiliated unions are eager to be the hands that build infrastructure that contributes to lowering costs for Maryland families, like many of our members.

The combined benefits of fair wages and high-quality labor standards, energy cost reduction, and continued development of Maryland energy infrastructure demonstrates why the BDCBT urges a favorable report on SB341.

Ray Baker
Maryland Director, BDCBT
RBaker@BDCBT.org
410.585.7862