



Testimony on: SB0966 – Public Service Commission - Net Energy Metering - Successor Program

Committee: Environment & Transportation

Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

Submitting: Richard Deutschmann

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Hearing Date: March 12, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

We are providing our testimony today in **Support with Amendments** of SB0966 - Public Service Commission - Net Energy Metering - Successor Program. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing is a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice and we urge you to vote favorably with amendments on SB0966.

Net metering of renewable energy systems in Maryland, and across the U.S., has been one of the bulwarks in creating a clean energy powered economy. This approach has brought us to a place where Marylanders can enjoy the benefits of this low-cost power solution, with more affordable energy bills for decades to come, and ancillary benefits such as increased reliability, delayed need for expensive transmission upgrades, and rapid deployment of in-state electricity generation. But as we approach the state-mandated cap of 3GW, we will need an orderly transition to a new net metering approach, one that will continue to make energy more affordable for Maryland families, and will continue the growth of clean energy into the future.

SB0966 does this by doubling the cap of net metered systems in Maryland from 3GW to 6GW. It also instructs the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) to develop and implement a successor program that will continue to incentivize clean energy development, compensate generators for some of the benefits that their energy creates, while squarely focusing on affordability for the ratepayer.

We respectfully request that this bill be amended to reflect the complex transition that needs to take place, in order for project development to continue without needless delays. The language in another bill, SB0843 - SUNRISE Act - appears to carefully capture the needs for this transition. We recommend amending SB0966 to:

- Recognize the large amount of projects that are currently in design, development or financial closing. These projects may be depending on the current net metering incentive for financial viability, and should be allowed to continue towards construction and interconnection to the grid. This smart amendment language would also eliminate a last minute surge of speculative projects, steering them to the new system.
- Have the PSC lead a comprehensive process to fairly value the distributed generation, to account for the numerous benefits that it brings about for both the system owner and ratepayers across the state, as well as how it supports our state in meeting our climate goals under the Climate Solutions Now Act.

By passing SB0966 with the aforementioned amendments, we can ensure that the clean energy economy will continue to power Maryland for generations to come, long term job creation will benefit Maryland families, and state residents will be protected from rate increases and enjoy higher energy affordability for their homes and businesses.

For these reasons we request a FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS report on SB0966.

350MoCo

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Climate Law and Policy Project

Climate Communications Coalition

Climate Parents of Prince George's

Climate Reality Greater Maryland

ClimateXChange

Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

Echotopia

Elders Climate Action Maryland

Fix Maryland Rail

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

Greenbelt Climate Action Network

HoCoClimateAction

Howard County Indivisible

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Maryland Energy Advocates

Maryland Third Act

Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund

Mobilize Frederick

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Mountain Maryland Movement

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Progressive Maryland

Safe & Healthy Playing Fields

Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland