

SB0341 - SUPPORT

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

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

We urge a favorable report on SB0341, Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act). We believe SB0341 establishes the foundation Marylanders need to join the clean, affordable, and urgent energy transition our times demand.

We are some of the lucky ones. We have solar panels on the roof of our Silver Spring home, so we are partially shielded from skyrocketing energy bills. But many other households in Maryland are taking a big hit. They either can't afford to put solar panels on their roof, don't own their homes, or live in an apartment. They're stuck paying higher bills or forgoing heat in the winter and air conditioning in the summer, or cutting back on other essentials.

The portable solar provisions of this bill open the door to renters to participate in the clean energy economy and to meaningful, long-term savings—up to 30% on apartment utility bills.

Furthermore, Maryland needs to generate more electricity within its borders, and it needs to increase its electricity production from renewable sources to meet its goal of 50% renewable energy by 2030. Using the sun to generate that electricity is the cheapest and fastest way to meet our energy needs. This legislation will guarantee that ratepayer money for solar actually builds more solar in the state, rather than used for grant-making or general government functions, as is now the case.

In addition, there are few ways states can push back against the Trump regime. One way is to build out more solar energy, something the President despises.

In short, SB0341 is a bill focused on affordability and boosting our energy supply, with the added benefit of being an act of independence from and resistance to the incompetence and criminality of the Trump administration.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB0341.

Thank you for your consideration.