



March 10, 2026

RE: Senate Bill (SB) 0966 – Public Service Commission – Net Energy Metering – Successor Program

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

Introduction: Thank you for the opportunity to submit favorable with amendment written testimony for SB 0966 (cross-filed with HB 1476). Chaberton Energy is a Maryland-based distributed energy developer focused on community solar and storage. A public benefit corporation, Chaberton is one of the largest developers in the Maryland Community Solar Energy Systems (“CSEGS”) Program. Chaberton has over 200 Megawatts of community solar, commercial solar, and storage in active development here in Maryland. With a total development pipeline of more than one Gigawatt and over 100 Megawatts of projects completed, Chaberton is one of the fastest growing energy companies in the nation, ranked 53rd on the 2025 and 34th on the 2024 Inc. 5000 lists.

Background: Senate Bill 0966 directs the Public Service Commission to initiate proceedings for the creation of a successor program for net energy metering.

Comments: Chaberton Energy was established in Maryland following the creation of the community solar pilot program, and we have grown in these years to being one of the largest developers of distributed energy in the State. We have consistently expanded our efforts in Maryland, expanding our headquarters and hiring additional staff to support our local efforts. Our work has further supported other local companies who participate in the clean energy economy, including civil engineers and electrical contractors. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, there are nearly 5,000 solar jobs in Maryland, and many more which are supported by our industry. We are a major part of the economy in the State.

As with any business, legislative and regulatory certainty is paramount to our success. We need to ensure any legislation which establishes a successor program for net metering provides certainty for both in operation and for in-development projects, in which significant capital has been invested. This includes providing fair consideration for projects which have been developed and development capital has been invested under the consideration of the current regulatory guidance. Any uncertainty can have a disastrous impact on the clean energy economy in the State, halting investments into capital energy projects as well as the ability for companies like Chaberton to continue to retain staff, hire, and support other businesses. Undoubtedly, immediate changes are likely to have a negative impact on local businesses and solar jobs. The Public Service Commission may be able to provide an open, transparent, and fair platform to provide considerations for how in-development projects will be considered.

It is important the General Assembly understand the whole picture of what is leading to increased energy prices in Maryland. The Office of Peoples Counsel (“OPC”) analysis¹ on increases to BG&E energy bills identifies 2 key factors to increased energy bills. Regarding delivery charges, the OPC finds that “Generally, distribution charges have gone up in recent years because of a high rate of utility spending on new, long-lasting infrastructure, such as electric wires and poles, substations, meters, computers, trucks and other equipment. More spending increases utility profits as customers pay for the infrastructure through rate increases.” Supply rate increases have been primarily driven by capacity market prices, for which OPC identifies the demands resulting from data centers in PJM to be the primary driver.

It is also important that the General Assembly understand the electric markets outside of Maryland to better understand what is happening here. While it appears certain organizations have identified the implementation of renewable energy as the primary driver for increased energy costs, looking at trends across the Country prove that to be untrue. West Virginia, for example, has experienced above average electric rate increases. According to Fox Appalachia², “West Virginia’s residential electricity price appears to have jumped 30–37% over the 2019–24 period compared to the national jump of 20-23% in the same period.” It is important to note that West Virginia ranks 46th in national rankings of installed solar according to the Solar Energy Industries Association. Outside of PJM, Kentucky, which ranks 33rd in national rankings but has nearly no net metered solar, is also experiencing increased residential energy prices, with Kentucky Power recently requesting a 14% rate increase³. These references prove that energy rate increases are not unique to Maryland, or unique to states with significant solar penetration or net metering regulations.

Conclusion: For the reasons stated above, Chaberton provides this favorable with amendment testimony for SB 0966. We respectfully request the Committee strongly consider small changes to this bill in order to ensure certainty for the community solar industry, which will protect local businesses like Chaberton and many others. Please do not hesitate to reach out should the Committee have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Miller
Howard County Resident

On behalf of:
Chaberton Energy
Montgomery County business

¹<https://opc.maryland.gov/Why-is-my-winter-BGE-bill-so-high>

²<https://wchstv.com/news/local/west-virginians-struggle-to-afford-power-bills-during-extended-stretch-of-winter-weather>

³<https://kentuckylantern.com/2026/03/02/state-regulator-approves-reduced-increase-in-kentucky-power-rates-following-emotional-pleas/>