



February 17, 2026

Members of the Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland State Senate
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Written Testimony in support of Senate Bill 26 and House Bill 1190 – Public Utilities - Off-Grid Electricity Providers - Exemption

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

Bloom Energy writes in support of SB26, legislation that accelerates deployment of clean, resilient onsite energy solutions. SB26 provides a clear and appropriate pathway for off-grid electricity generation—self-contained, behind-the-meter power that does not interconnect with the grid or use public rights-of-way. This clarification strengthens Maryland’s competitiveness while reducing pressure on an already strained electric grid.

Bloom Energy’s solid oxide fuel cells provide 24/7, ultra-reliable, low-emission onsite power directly at a customer’s facility. Bloom’s systems can be rapidly deployed and virtually eliminate emissions of harmful air pollutants NO_x and SO₂, consume and discharge no water during normal operation, and reduce CO₂ emissions by approximately 40% compared to the marginal grid in Maryland. These systems can operate fully islanded, enabling large-load customers to meet their own needs without burdening the grid or ratepayers, and without the delays caused by lengthy interconnection queues. By enabling off-grid solutions that are paid for entirely by the end use customer, SB26 helps reduce strain on the statewide and regional grid and protects ratepayers because costs are isolated to customers investing in their own systems—not shared by all utility customers.

We also note the importance of addressing hurdles to onsite generation presented by Maryland’s Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS). Current BEPS rules penalize onsite generation—even when it is cleaner than grid power—because emissions occurring on site count against compliance, while higher emissions from grid-supplied electricity do not. This dynamic encourages greater use of an already strained grid rather than local solutions that reduce systemwide demand and avoid costly grid upgrades. BEPS clarification that provides equal treatment of onsite and grid power, in addition to efforts to advance off-grid solutions, would help align state policy with grid reliability and ratepayer protection.

Bloom Energy supports this bill along with any efforts that assist in advancing Maryland’s goals to strengthen grid resilience while protecting ratepayers and reducing emissions.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian P. Noonan". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Brian P. Noonan
Sr. Manager, Policy & Government Affairs