

TESTIMONY FOR SB0341

Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy

Credits (Affordable Solar Act)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Brooks

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0341.

This bill would phase out the current solar subsidy program and replace it with a new program that would require the Public Service Commission (PSC) to conduct competitive procurements for utility scale solar and ensure that the new systems are built with the best value for rate-payers. It will also require the PSC to establish incentive prices for rooftop and community solar, and would protect rate payers. Payments that have already been paid by rate payers will be put into an escrow account used to implement this new solar model.

Also, this bill would incentivize portable solar - compact portable systems that plug directly into a standard outlet and require no rooftop installation. Portable solar systems feed power into the home to offset consumption, reducing household electricity bills and, when paired with a battery, offer energy resilience to households. This would help many Marylanders who cannot invest in traditional rooftop solar, particularly renters, lower-income households, and homeowners with shaded or otherwise unsuitable roofs. It would put new, clean energy into the grid and into people's homes. I have a roof that is completely shaded, and allowance of plug-in solar would give me an opportunity to get some solar power into my house.

I strongly support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Tim Lake

Rockville, Maryland