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March 5, 2026

Support: SB843: Net Energy Metering, SUNRISE Program, and Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program (SUNRISE Act)

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV Supports SB843: Net Energy Metering, SUNRISE Program, and Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program (SUNRISE Act) and we thank Senator Feldman for his leadership on this issue.

Maryland LCV is working to Power Maryland Forward, supporting **energy affordability** through **deployment of solar and storage, defense against more fossil fuels** and **unchecked utility profits**, while **getting the most out of the electricity grid we have**. SB843 supports these goals by offering one solution to support net metering and the state solar program beyond the existing net metering cap. This solution may be one considered by the Public Service Commission in an evaluation of potential successors to the net metering program as recommended by the Maryland Public Service Commission and mandated in other legislation being considered by this committee.

Maryland LCV's primary interest in SB843 is in its adjustment to the Community Solar program as relates to low-and-moderate income (LMI) market enhancements. Maryland LCV was one of the leading voices in passing the Community Solar permanent program, as an important vehicle to both advancing our clean energy goals and supporting LMI households in reducing their energy bills. The Maryland program mandates that all community solar projects reserve at least 40% of their energy for LMI subscribers, who receive a guaranteed discount off of their energy bills.

We understand that developers, acting in good faith, may have difficulty meeting their mandated threshold in some markets, and SB843 offers two new pathways to meet these requirements, working through the Office of Home Energy Programs (or local agencies) to serve LMI customers directly. Both of the proposed options ensure easier opportunities for LMI subscribers to benefit from the cost savings and clean energy, while overcoming the hurdles of trust, language barriers, among other impediments to success. We are supportive of an amendment to the bill to raise the dedicated low-income energy allocation from 8% to 10%, which is the recommendation of other advocates working in that space.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on these programmatic changes, as they are considering the future of Maryland's solar programs this legislative session.

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