



## TESTIMONY FOR SB 0341

### Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act)

#### Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

#### FAVORABLE

TO: Senator Brian Feldman, Chair; Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice-Chair; and the Members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Patrick Crump, member of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network

DATE: February 19, 2026

The Episcopal Church believes that global climate change is not only a scientific concern or environmental issue, but what the United Nations calls "the defining issue of our time... at a defining moment" (UN Secretary General, September 10, 2018). We believe that clean, safe, and renewable energy is essential to preserve God's creation, and our Church has passed numerous resolutions in support of this, such as on fossil fuel non-proliferation and supporting a clean energy future. And the Church is committed to environmental justice, with a specific concern for reducing economic impacts on lower-income communities.

We support the Affordable Solar Act for the following reasons:

- The legislation establishes a target to connect 4,000 MW of solar capacity to the Maryland grid by 2035, facilitated by a procurement process for utility-scale projects using funds already collected through the renewable energy portfolio standard;
- Protects funding for renewable energy from being diverted to offset Maryland's budget deficit; and
- Extends access to incentives for affordable renewable energy to renters, by adding SREC credits for portable solar energy generating systems, often referred to as "plug-in" or "balcony" solar.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland urges the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee to support the Affordable Solar Act, to strengthen Maryland's solar renewable energy credit program in a way that lowers energy costs and accelerates the state's transition to clean energy sources.

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network requests a FAVORABLE report.

*The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) is a ministry of The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, The Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and The Delaware-Maryland Synod ELCA*