

Testimony on: SB265 - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems – Prohibited Locations - Adjacent Parcels

Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment

Submitting: Rhonda Kranz

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 19, 2026

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr and Committee Members:

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in support of SB265, repealing the prohibition on developing solar projects on adjacent parcels in the Community Solar program. I have lived in Maryland for 30 years and am very concerned that Maryland meets its climate goals under the Climate Solutions Now Act and addresses energy affordability especially for those with low incomes.

Solar energy has become one of the most viable and economic sources of energy available. The Maryland Public Service Commission reports that the current Community Solar Program has more than 360 projects in operation, under construction or in development, and generates 550MW of clean energy generation across the state. However, Maryland faces a growing need for new generation of energy to address load growth, electrification of our buildings and transportation systems, and to improve reliability in the region.

As Maryland has fallen behind in its climate goals, we need to assure that energy generation is from clean energy. SB265 would repeal an outdated rule, and allowing the development of Community Solar projects on adjacent land parcels. This will enable new clean energy generation projects to proceed in places where a landowner wants to participate and nearby interconnection points are favorable and would expand economically viable energy generation in Maryland, and improve energy affordability for the state's low and Moderate Income residents.

For these reasons, I support SB265 and urge a FAVORABLE report in Committee.