



February 6, 2026

RE: House Bill (HB) 460: Solar Energy – Construction of Generating Stations in Priority Preservation Areas and Study - Unfavorable

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

Introduction: Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 460. Chaberton Energy is a Maryland-based distributed energy developer focused on community solar and storage. A public benefit corporation, Chaberton is one of the largest developers in the Maryland Community Solar Energy Systems (“CSEGS”) Program. Chaberton has over 200 Megawatts of community solar, commercial solar, and storage in active development here in Maryland. With a total development pipeline of more than one Gigawatt and over 100 Megawatts of projects completed, Chaberton is one of the fastest growing energy companies in the nation, ranked 53rd on the 2025 and 34th on the 2024 Inc. 5000 lists.

Background: Current law requires that a local jurisdiction approve for construction solar energy generation stations that meet requirements enumerated in state law. The local jurisdiction must approve these projects on up to 5% of the total acreage of the priority preservation area adopted prior to January 1, 2025. Once the 5% total acreage is reached, a local jurisdiction may restrict or deny construction of these types of projects beyond those requirements enumerated in state law. HB 460 would reduce that acreage percentage from 5% to 2%. Additionally, HB 460 would require the Maryland Department of the Environment to study the environmental impact of the disposal of solar panels, reporting those findings by September 30, 2027.

Comments: Senate Bill 931 and House Bill 1036 from 2025 Regular Session (the Renewable Energy Certainty Act) represents a significant milestone in energy policy in the State of Maryland. It masterfully balances Maryland’s urgent need for local generation with reasonable and justifiable siting standards. Furthermore, it provided unprecedented protection for land in identified Priority Preservation Areas, limiting development to a maximum of only 5% in these areas. This ensured that no less than 95% of land in Priority Preservation Areas can be prohibited for solar development should a local jurisdiction choose to do so. Such a restriction does not exist in any other state. Chaberton feels strongly that this compromise should be maintained and not adjusted.

Conclusion: For the reasons stated above, Chaberton respectfully urges an unfavorable report on HB 460. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out should the Committee have any questions.