



# PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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**Bill Title:** [HB345](#) Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act)

**Position:** SUPPORT (FAV)

**To:** Environment and Transportation Committee

**From:** Iman Habib, Climate Policy Analyst on behalf of Progressive Maryland

**Date:** February 5, 2026

Dear Chair Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I am Iman Habib—Climate Policy Analyst for Progressive Maryland which is a member-led, power-building organization that advocates for working class people tackling a plethora of issues, including energy affordability. We have over 125,000 members across the state with substantial membership bases in Baltimore City, Prince George’s, Montgomery, Frederick, and Harford counties, and the Eastern Shore. We have also organized five tenant unions across Montgomery County and Prince George’s, and have heard from renters on the ground that soaring energy bills are one of the primary determinants for the affordability crisis they find themselves in. For these reasons, **we are urging a favorable report on House Bill 345** which will promote solar build out in Maryland, making the future of affordability auspicious and the path toward a clean energy future propitious.

For our members who do not own property and are struggling to make ends meet, the portable solar provision in this bill is of crucial importance. HB345 enables the deployment of *portable solar*, which, unlike *rooftop solar*, can be plugged into any building outlet, and will enable renters who do not own their property to have access to clean energy. For residents who live in low-income, multi-family housing and rent their homes, this bill is critical in making a clean energy future accessible to underserved communities. When renters are able to use their own clean energy source to generate electricity, this reduces their reliance on utilities which are providing fossil-fuel powered electricity and charging higher rates.

These savings could be repurposed toward other necessities such as doctor’s appointments, daycare, insurance payments, groceries, or other essential services working-class Marylanders may not otherwise have the means to afford. Moreover, the diversion from fossil-fuel-derived energy to clean alternatives like solar present additional environmental and health benefits and promote community health and well-being. **For these reasons, Progressive Maryland is in strong support of House Bill 345.**