

ENHANCED IMPACT LLC

Based in Great Mills, Maryland; serving clients leaving only footprints across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Favorable Testimony for HB1104

Residential Solar Energy Systems - Local Inspections and Permitting

Environment & Transportation Committee

Hearing Date: March 3, 2026

Esteemed Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee,

I am writing today in favor of HB1104 Residential Solar Energy Systems - Local Inspections and Permitting. In 2025, I founded Enhanced Impact LLC to support mission driven non-profit organizations and sustainable businesses across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. I am an adjunct instructor for a LEAD211 Exploring Environmental Advocacy at St Mary's College of Maryland. I am also a proud homeowner in St Mary's County with 30 solar panels on my roof and a 9Kw backup battery in my garage.

The broad positive implications of rooftop solar and home energy systems are evident in my lived experience. Our family uses free fuel from the sun to power our home and charge our car. Despite living in the woods, we enjoy much cheaper electrical bills than any of our neighbors. This is the case both in the peak summer months and even still in the cold months. Our home battery provides resiliency during storms and our first floor, kitchen appliances, interior bathrooms, HVAC, internet are all fully connected during power outages. The solar can still charge the battery when the grid is down so the resiliency returns every morning after a storm.

However, in my experience I also saw the hidden costs of installation: delays in permitting, inspections, and interconnection that burden families who want to go solar. When my system was installed in 2018 we signed a contract in the spring, but it took until August to finally get our panels and a battery fully operational and storing clean energy. This was due to a variety of factors including slow county permitting, and then a waiting game where our system sat on our roof unconnected due to utility delays. As a result, we missed the crucial peak season for peak energy production, and the bill savings that come with it.

Navigating the permitting, inspection, and interconnection process in St. Mary's County meant contending with a maze of paperwork and delays before, during, and after installation. Any clerical error or small miscommunication led to delays. For example, my inspection was rejected because my husband's name was accidentally added to my SMECO account agreement instead of mine. My contractor fixed this in 5 minutes, but this issue alone set my project back 5 days.

There were also procedures that involved multiple inspections, from both the county and the utility co-op. Someone had to be at home at the time and there's no time frame given so a person can estimate how many hours to take off of work. The same permitting and inspection quirks were true for our home EV charger installation 3 years ago. One time we failed an EV charger inspection because the inspector did not ring the doorbell to alert me to their arrival. I was working upstairs all day. The inspector left a small failure sticker on my front porch inches from the doorbell.

As my professional and personal story probably indicates, I was a highly motivated customer when it comes to sustainable home energy choices. My husband and I had planned, saved, gotten our roof redone, installed energy saving appliances to lower our demand, and searched carefully for a local contractor. But, we discussed pulling back on our solar and battery project at several points because of how long and involved the process was. If my family could be almost dissuaded from moving forward, I can only imagine the many others who have not made the leap to go solar, and who are missing out on the same benefits that I enjoy.

I want to close with a note of sincere gratitude to Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo, who has worked hard with stakeholders to craft a bill that will make solar and the bill savings it delivers more accessible to Marylanders. I encourage the committee to vote favorably on HB1104.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rosa E. P. Hance

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Founder

[Enhanced Impact LLC](#)

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