



**Committee:** House Environment and Transportation  
**Testimony:** HB 345 Public Utilities – Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits  
(Affordable Solar Act)  
**Organization:** Jewish Community Relations Council of Howard County, MD  
**Submitting:** Laura Salganik, Chair  
**Position:** FAVORABLE  
**Hearing Date:** February 10, 2026

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and Committee Members:

The Jewish Community Relations Council is submitting this testimony in favor of HB 345, the Affordable Solar Act. This bill advances the Jewish values of helping our neighbors who suffer burdens and repairing the world. Advancing the use of solar power lowers the cost and increases accessibility of clean, renewable energy to individual homes.

This bill phases out the current subsidy program, Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SREC) and replaces it with (SREC 2), an improvement that will see the Public Service Commission (PSC) conducting competitive procurements for utility scale solar to ensure that these systems are built with the best value for rate-payers. Second, the PSC will establish incentive prices for rooftop and community solar and recalculate these regularly, based on changes in the market and federal policy.

This model also shifts funds already being paid by ratepayers through Alternative Compliance Payments into an escrow account that will be used to implement SREC 2.

A second benefit of this bill is that it enables a safe and affordable solution to building more solar: portable, or balcony solar. Compact portable systems plug directly into a standard outlet and require no rooftop installation. Portable solar systems feed power into the home to offset consumption, reduce household electricity bills, and even mitigate climate warming emissions when paired with a battery. Balcony or portable solar appliances make solar more widely available to low-income Marylanders and to renters.

We urge you to support HB 345 to help ratepayers lower the cost and increase the access to clean, renewable energy, so important to the future of the state of Maryland.

**We respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB 345.**