



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

Testimony on: HB1476 – Public Service Commission - Net Energy Metering - Successor Program

Committee: Environment & Transportation

Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

Submitting: Monica Oconnor

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Hearing Date: March 3, 2026

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

[HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. We are also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#). Our organization works with residents and ally organizations to promote a safe climate and clean energy future. Specifically, we have worked extensively on building electrification to help Maryland achieve its ambitious climate goals, including net-zero emissions.

We urge you to vote **favorably with amendments** on **HB1476 – Public Service Commission - Net Energy Metering - Successor Program**

Net metering of renewable energy systems in Maryland, and across the U.S., has been one of the bulwarks in creating a clean energy powered economy. This approach has brought us to a place where Marylanders can enjoy the benefits of this low-cost power solution, with more affordable energy bills for decades to come, and ancillary benefits such as increased reliability, delayed need for expensive transmission upgrades, and rapid deployment of in-state electricity generation. But as we approach the state-mandated cap of 3GW, we will need an orderly transition to a new net metering approach, one that will continue to make energy more affordable for Maryland families, and will continue the growth of clean energy into the future.

HB1476 does this by doubling the cap of net metered systems in Maryland from 3GW to 6GW. It also instructs the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) to develop and implement a successor program that will continue to incentivize clean energy development, compensate generators for some of the benefits that their energy creates, while squarely focusing on affordability for the ratepayer.

We respectfully request that this bill be amended to reflect the complex transition that needs to take place, in order for project development to continue without needless delays. The language in another bill, HB1195 - SUNRISE Act - appears to carefully capture the needs for this transition.

We recommend amending HB1476 to:

- Recognize the large amount of projects that are currently in design, development or financial closing. These projects may be depending on the current net metering incentive for financial viability, and should be allowed to continue towards construction and interconnection to the grid. This smart amendment language would also eliminate a last minute surge of speculative projects, steering them to the new system.
- Have the PSC lead a comprehensive process to fairly value the distributed generation, to

account for the numerous benefits that it brings about for both the system owner and ratepayers across the state, as well as how it supports our state in meeting our climate goals under the Climate Solutions Now Act. By passing HB1476 with the aforementioned amendments, we can ensure that the clean energy economy will continue to power Maryland for generations to come, long term job creation will benefit Maryland families, and state residents will be protected from rate increases and enjoy higher energy affordability for their homes and businesses.

For these reasons we request a FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS report on HB1476.

Howard County Climate Action
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