ConnectDER hereby files these comments in strong support of HB1104.

ConnectDER is a manufacturer of meter socket adapters (MSAs), focused on enabling simpler, more cost effective installation of distributed energy resources and electrification technologies.

MSAs can offer substantial cost savings to residential customers looking to adopt clean energy technologies and streamline installation processes. Meter socket adapters are a customer-owned device that are installed along with a DER project, such as rooftop solar array, battery energy storage system (BESS), or electric vehicle (EV) charger. Using a meter socket adapter reduces equipment and labor costs, saving several hundred to several thousand dollars per installation. Savings are recognized by avoiding unnecessary electrical work associated with traditional installation methods. The most substantial savings for an individual customer occur when they are able to utilize a meter socket adapter to avoid an unnecessary main panel replacement or service upsizing. ConnectDER MSAs have been approved for use in Maryland since early 2025, following the adoption of MSA rules in COMAR 20.50.09.07. Maryland customers now see hundreds to thousands of dollars in savings per install by using an MSA compared to traditional installation methods.

ConnectDER supports policies that make residential DERs simpler and more affordable for customers. HB1104 establishes updates to inspection and permitting processes that streamline the installation of residential solar energy systems through the approval of the use of automated software for permitting and remote inspections.The current processes for inspections and permitting for residential solar energy systems often result in delays, uncertainty, and unnecessary costs. HB1104 addresses these challenges by creating clear instructions on cost caps for solar permitting fees and clearer timelines for remote inspection. These reforms align with ConnectDER's mission to simplify and streamline DER interconnection.We strongly support these actions and believe they will support Maryland-based installer businesses in providing effective service, and support households by enabling lower-cost DER installations.

ConnectDER is particularly supportive of the expected amendment to allow qualified personnel employed by a customer-generator's installer to temporarily remove the meter, perform relevant electrical work, and replace the meter. Our products are used in over two dozen states, and we find that markets where qualified personnel are allowed to temporarily remove the meter, install an MSA, and reinstall the meter results in the best outcome for customers and the most efficient use of resources for utilities and the industry. We find that utilities often don't have the resources to keep up with their workload, and enabling qualified personnel employed by installers to perform basic work around the meter is a safe and effective process for streamlining installations. Inconsistent meter-pulling requirements and processes have been time-consuming and confusing for installers in Maryland - where neighboring utilities, owned by the same parent company, don't have uniform requirements. Creating consistent processes for allowing qualified personnel

to temporarily remove the meter would eliminate these delays,confusion, and cost. It also helps avoid bottlenecks and extended timelines for inspections and permitting.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1104

Thank you for your consideration.

Jonathan Knauer
VP Policy and Market Strategy
ConnectDER, Inc.