



Testimony on: HB1104 – Residential Solar Energy Systems - Local Inspections and Permitting

Committee: Environment & Transportation

Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

Submitting: Richard Deutschmann

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 3, 2026

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and Committee Members:

We are providing our testimony today in strong support of HB1104 - Residential Solar Energy Systems Local Inspections and Permitting. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing is a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice and we urge you to vote favorably on HB1104. We thank Del. Fraser-Hidalgo for his leadership on this important bill.

The MLC Climate Justice Wing supports HB1104 because it dramatically reduces the cost and complexity of having a solar energy and battery storage system installed on your home. This will result in more in-state generation, higher resiliency for the grid, and big savings for Marylanders on their energy bills. The bill was carefully crafted based on experience in numerous other states, and in coordination with a broad stakeholder group here in Maryland.

HB1104 does this by streamlining and simplifying the permitting and inspection process for solar energy and battery storage systems in Maryland. It requires counties to institute instant permitting, cutting the time and expense for this often-lengthy process. It simplifies the inspection process, as they will now be completed using a remote inspection with video or photo confirmation, while ensuring a high level of safety. The bill solves the problem of long waits for interconnection (a process that currently can take months), allowing certified installers to “pull the meter”, eliminating utility bureaucracy and safely connecting to the grid. It caps the cost of permits to actual expenditures, prohibiting jurisdictions from charging unreasonable fees and disincentivizing solar and battery installations. Finally, HB1104 implements a uniform building code, which will standardize installations, and reduce costs for consumers.

In a 2019 study by the Solar Energy Industries Association, it was shown that these current permitting and inspection issues can add as much as \$7,000 to the cost of a residential system. This in turn makes systems less affordable for consumers, and often delays the installation by months. HB1104 will reduce these costs and delays, saving money for Maryland homeowners, increasing in-state electricity generation, reducing peak demand in the state, and helping to reach our climate goals under the Climate Solutions Now Act.

For these reasons we request a FAVORABLE report on HB1104.

350MoCo

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Climate Law and Policy Project
Climate Communications Coalition
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Greater Maryland
ClimateXChange
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
Howard County Indivisible
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland Energy Advocates
Maryland Third Act
Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland