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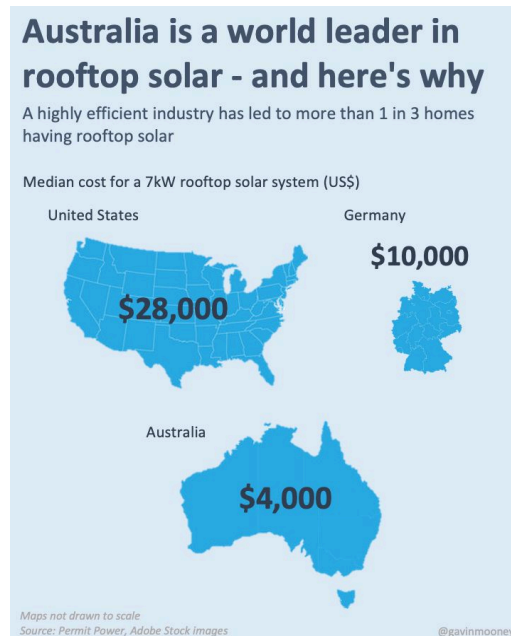
MIKE TIDWELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HB1104 - RESIDENTIAL SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS - LOCAL INSPECTIONS AND PERMITTING
FAVORABLE
ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 2ND, 2026

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, **I urge a favorable report on HB1104**, which would streamline permitting for residential rooftop solar and battery storage in Maryland.

Solar is the cheapest form of electricity generation available today, but most of the cost of getting solar installed on a home comes in permitting costs. In Australia, if someone calls a home owner and calls a solar company, that homeowner could have solar on their roof and sell electricity to the grid in a single week. In Maryland, the same process takes months to complete. The graphic below shows that installing 7 Kilowatts of rooftop solar in the United States can be seven times more expensive than the same system in Australia:



Marylanders are facing increasingly high electricity costs. Many families are looking to rooftop solar and battery storage to lower their electric bills, increase energy independence, and protect themselves from extreme weather. However, outdated and inconsistent permitting processes are standing in the way.

Today, permitting complexities and delays can add thousands of dollars to the cost of a typical solar installation — in some cases as much as \$7,000. These unnecessary costs put solar out of reach for too many Maryland families.

HB 1104 would remove these barriers by:

- Ensuring instant online permitting for code-compliant rooftop solar and batteries
- Allowing certified installers to “pull the meter” statewide, eliminating unnecessary utility coordination delays
- Allowing remote inspections to reduce wait times and costs
- Establishing reasonable permitting fees
- Implementing a statewide uniform building code to simplify and standardize the installation process

These reforms would cut red tape, lower installation costs, and make clean, local energy cheaper and easier to deploy — regardless of zip code. They would unleash more rooftop solar and home batteries in Maryland, which would:

- Help households save significantly on electricity bills
- Reduce strain on the grid during peak demand
- Improve resilience during extreme weather
- Add in-state energy generation without additional land use
- Reduce pollution and strengthen Maryland’s clean energy future

At a time when the federal incentives that have helped Marylanders afford solar are phasing out and energy costs are rising, Maryland must act to make rooftop solar more affordable and accessible.

House Bill 1104 is a practical, consumer-focused solution that lowers costs, increases energy resilience, and supports clean, local power.

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of HB 1104.

Thank you for your consideration.