

March 3, 2026

Delegate Marc Korman
Chair
House Environment and
Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Michele Guyton
Vice Chair
House Environment and
Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB1104: Residential Solar Energy Systems - Local Inspections and Permitting

Position: Favorable

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

I am writing on behalf of the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) in **support** of HB1104 (Fraser-Hidalgo). It was referred to the House Environment and Transportation Committee on February 11, 2026.

Founded in 1974, SEIA is the national trade association for the solar and storage industries, building a comprehensive vision for the advancement of these technologies. As the voice of the industry, SEIA works to support solar and energy storage as they become a mainstream and significant energy source by expanding markets, reducing costs, increasing reliability, removing market barriers, and providing education on the benefits and capabilities of solar and energy storage technologies. We work with our 1,200+ member companies, which include solar and storage manufacturers, service providers, residential, community and utility-scale solar developers, installers, construction firms, and investment firms, as well as other strategic partners, to shape fair market rules that promote competition and the growth of reliable, low-cost energy storage and solar power.

Rooftop solar systems can save Maryland households up to \$2,300 annually while reducing strain on the electric grid amid rising energy demand and affordability concerns. Paired with battery storage, these systems also enhance household resilience during extreme weather events.

Although Maryland enacted smart solar permitting reforms, inconsistent adoption across counties and municipalities continues to create unnecessary delays, complex review processes, and excessive fees. These barriers can add thousands of dollars to the cost of a typical residential solar installation, limiting access for working families.

HB1104 addresses these challenges by standardizing and expediting residential solar permitting statewide.

The bill:

- Establishes clear timelines for local governments to authorize remote inspections for qualifying residential solar systems.
- Prohibits unnecessary manual reviews when objective criteria are met.
- Caps and standardizes permit fees to prevent excessive local charges.



By reducing red tape, lowering soft costs, and accelerating installations, HB1104 will expand access to rooftop solar and energy storage, deliver meaningful bill savings to Maryland residents, and strengthen grid reliability at a critical time.

For these reasons, SEIA supports this legislation and respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB1104. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Georgina Arreola-Lennox

Georgina Arreola-Lennox
Mid-Atlantic Regional Director
Solar Energy Industries Association
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