



February 24, 2025

Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
House Energy & Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB 897 – FAVORABLE

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

TurningPoint Energy ("TPE") is a solar and battery storage development and investment company, with over 1 gigawatt of community solar developed across the United States and 21 megawatts in Maryland alone. We were proud to participate in Maryland's community solar pilot program since its inception in 2015, and continue to invest heavily in the state's clean energy future.

TPE applauds Governor Moore for his proactive leadership on energy deployment, and we wish to express our support for House Bill 897. We appreciate the Maryland Energy Administration's "all hands on deck" approach to bolstering clean energy in the state, and will continue to partner with the agency on innovative initiatives like those outlined in the Lower Bills and Local Power Act of 2026 and Governor Moore's Executive Order 01.01.2025.27.

The creation of the Solar and Energy Storage Market Stabilization Program (Section 9-2018) is an important step in response to federal policy changes. We believe this fund should prioritize energy storage deployment in Maryland, as there currently is no tariff or program by which a distribution-connected energy storage facility may participate. Thus, using this fund to "bridge the gap" to when a tariff is placed can ensure energy storage facilities can begin the development process. Ultimately, distribution-connected energy storage facilities will address Maryland's significantly high capacity prices and reduce reliance on expensive, wholesale generation resources in PJM. Furthermore, energy storage ensures that local power can remain available during grid outages, providing a critical safety net for vulnerable populations.

We applaud the Governor's efforts to reduce the costs of transmission through this Act. Indeed, distributed solar and storage are themselves a transmission solution. By generating and storing power close to where it is consumed, our projects reduce the overall utility load on the PJM grid. Furthermore, distribution-connected facilities are much faster to permit and interconnect than transmission level resources. This local power approach naturally alleviates the need for expensive interstate transmission build-outs, the costs of which are traditionally passed down to Maryland ratepayers.

Finally, TPE is encouraged by the directive for the Department of Transportation to develop processes for siting energy assets within highway rights-of-way (Section 8-311). However, to fully realize the potential of available sites, we urge the General Assembly to consider expanding this framework beyond highway rights-of-way to include all viable State-owned land and properties. Utilizing the full footprint of State-owned assets for solar and storage will accelerate our transition and maximize the value of public land for public benefit.

Thank you,

/s/

David Murray

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