

Testimony Supporting HB345
House Environment and Transportation Committee
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Position: SUPPORT

Members of the Committee,

As a lifelong, 65 years, Maryland resident and ratepayer I urge you to pass HB345.

HB345 will make common-sense, well-researched, informed-by-experience adjustments to the Maryland ratepayer-incentivized program to invest in solar energy to better sustain our environment and to avoid escalating and fluctuating electric bills.

With HB345, investments in large solar installations will be made directly through solar project request for proposal, competitive procurements. I led successful IT procurements for the federal government as a technology manager and also for the State of Maryland as a consultant and I know the competitive procurement process works when performed using best practices.

With HB345, investments in medium solar installations will be incentivized by the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) using annually adjusted incentive amounts—I have been a citizen working member of the PSC-led Maryland Storage Energy Working Group and I have full confidence PSC staff will be able to tune this incentive effectively year-by-year so businesses will be able to invest confidently and successfully even in a rapidly changing energy ‘market.’

With HB345, small solar investments by consumers will not be hindered by public utility bureaucracy but instead will be box purchases at Lowes or Home Depot that work as soon as they are taken out of the box and plugged in. I have a portable solar panel and inverter/battery that I use for camping and other purposes and it is plug and play and it is wonderful.

HB345 will ensure ratepayer investments in solar are used FOR THAT PURPOSE. We ratepayers are very frustrated the solar investments we have been paying for in our electric bills for many years have been significantly diverted from their intended purpose. Establishing good policy but then failing to follow through on its execution erodes confidence and engagement in the process of voting for peers who will legislate the policies we need. And in this case the lack of follow through harmed our environment, raised our electric bills, and exacerbated energy injustices in our state—for example for those in public housing in Baltimore City that could easily be powered by solar and preclude skyrocketing bills; and for those in Stoney Beach suffering from coal plant emissions unnecessarily.

Please un-frustrate us by passing HB345—and help ALL Marylanders reap the benefits of the solar boom we see happening in Texas and California. We KNOW solar is the cheapest way to generate electrons

and getting cheaper still—and we are fed up with the slow-walking of the transition of our grid and our electric bills to clean, sustainable, predictably priced energy.

I think I am in a comfortable majority of ratepayers who understand we need to generate more electricity, who would be fine with solar on every rooftop and parking lot in our community, who would be fine with safe batteries installed in our communities like the old telephone switch buildings, and who do not want live anywhere near the alternatives, particularly this one - <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/land-use-biodiversity/wanted-volunteers-host-nuclear-waste-forever-2026-02-06/> (forever nuclear waste).