

**HB0345 - SUPPORT**

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**HB0345 -**

Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits  
(Affordable Solar Act)  
Environment and Transportation

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

On behalf of Third Act, a group of 1400 elders committed to clean energy, climate justice and democracy, I urge a favorable report on HB0345, Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act). We at Third Act believe HB0345 establishes the foundation Marylanders need to join the clean, affordable, and urgent energy transition our times demand.

We are confident through the work of our organization's climate activists throughout the state, that Marylanders are clamoring for clean, renewable, and affordable energy options. As a life-long Maryland resident, I can attest to the challenges that face all Marylanders, if we don't act urgently to promote and support clean energy solutions throughout our state.

Family budgets are straining to keep up with skyrocketing costs for electricity (among the nation's highest). We continue to hear from Maryland families about the strain to our pocketbooks, and to our environment, that our continued reliance on fossil fuels have caused. Marylanders are ready now for a change to a clean energy future.

We believe strongly that energy independence should be accessible to all Marylanders, whether homeowner or renter. HB0345 makes solar energy accessible to residents, whether they own a home or not. The bill's portable solar provisions allow renters to finally participate in the clean energy economy, and achieve significant savings on their monthly electric bills.

We also need a system that protects ratepayers while moving forward with clean energy. HB0345 creates an escrow account system that ensures transparency and prevents utilities from passing excessive costs to customers. This approach balances our urgent need for clean energy with strong protections for our families and businesses. HB0345 moves us towards our collective goals for clean energy, ratepayer affordability and protection for our environment. For these reasons, we at Third Act Maryland urge a favorable report on HB0345.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cynthia Miller  
Third Act Maryland  
Co-Facilitator