



**HB0345– Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits
(Affordable Solar Act)**

**Testimony before House Environment & Transportation Committee
February 10, 2026**

Position: Favorable

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the committee, my name is Peter Alexander, and I represent the 1700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB0345**, Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act). We also want to thank Delegate Charkoudian and her many co-sponsors for submitting this important legislation.

Maryland is ready to lead on clean energy, and Marylanders are ready for change. Right now, Maryland families face some of the highest electricity costs in the nation and those costs keep rising. Electricity capacity auctions have cleared at record-high prices for the second year in a row. We believe that Maryland families deserve real solutions that give us control over our energy future, not just more expensive bills.

We are ready to build 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.

In addition, HB0345 makes solar energy accessible to everyone independently of owning a house or not. The portable solar provisions open the door for renters to finally participate in the clean energy economy. A typical balcony system can reduce apartment electricity bills by 10-30%. We believe energy independence should be available to all Marylanders, not just those who own homes, and this bill breaks down such barriers that have kept solar access out of reach.

Finally, we are ready to meet the climate crisis with real action. We need bold steps to increase our current 7% electricity from renewable sources to meet our goal of 50% renewable energy by 2030. HB0345 moves us towards that goal.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to pass the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program. Let's make Maryland an environmental leader. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

Peter Alexander, PhD
Indivisible HoCoMD
Woodbine, MD 21797