



January 30, 2026

**RE: House Bill (HB) 54: Task Force to Study Restructuring Maryland's Electric Utility Industry – Favorable with Amendments**

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

**Introduction:** Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 54. Chaberton Energy is a Maryland-based distributed energy developer focused on community solar and storage. A public benefit corporation, Chaberton is one of the largest developers in the Maryland Community Solar Energy Systems (“CSEGS”) Program. Chaberton has over 200 Megawatts of community solar, commercial solar, and storage in active development here in Maryland. With a total development pipeline of more than one Gigawatt and over 100 Megawatts of projects completed, Chaberton is one of the fastest growing energy companies in the nation, ranked 53<sup>rd</sup> on the 2025 and 34<sup>th</sup> on the 2024 Inc. 5000 lists.

**Background:** HB 54 would create a task force to study Maryland’s electric utility industry and its impact on ratepayers. Comprised of elected officials, electric utilities, relevant government agencies, and stakeholders, the task force would evaluate models used in other states and markets. It would further identify options Maryland could employ to enhance its electric grid and reduce electricity costs for ratepayers. Its final recommendations would be issued in a report to the General Assembly by November 1, 2027.

**Comments:** As we face a growing, nationwide energy crisis, Maryland must consider every option to address rising energy costs to its ratepayers. Chaberton supports the creation of the task force under HB 54 to do just that. As electricity demand grows and interconnection delays persist, it is critical to evaluate whether existing utility models are adequately serving ratepayers and supporting the state’s clean energy and reliability goals. Solar is the cheapest, fastest way to generate and deploy energy to Maryland’s grid. Distributed generation and storage are crucial to minimizing our reliance on more expensive imported energy. The experience of a Maryland-based company developing these very projects will provide valuable insight to this task force and enhance its ability to deliver on its statutorily ascribed mission.

**Conclusion:** For the reasons stated above, Chaberton respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 54 with an amendment to include Maryland-based distributed energy developers on its task force. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out should the Committee have any questions.