



March 3, 2026

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
Environment & Transportation Committee  
Room 251, Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **Written Testimony**

#### **HB1195: Net Energy Metering, SUNRISE Program, and Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program (SUNRISE Act)**

**Position: Favorable**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the SUNRISE Act (HB 1195). My name is Scott Elias, and I am the Director of Policy and Market Development at CleanCapital, a leading independent power producer that develops, owns, operates, and invests in distributed solar and energy storage projects across the United States. I also serve as Vice President of the Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association (CHESSA) and as Co-Chair of SEIA's Mid-Atlantic Committee.

CleanCapital has invested more than \$1.5 billion in clean energy projects serving corporations, municipalities, universities, schools, hospitals, utilities, and community solar subscribers. In Maryland, we own and operate 20 projects totaling more than 26 megawatts, with more than a dozen additional projects in construction and various stages of development. Many of these projects will participate in the state's community solar program, delivering meaningful savings to low- and moderate- income (LMI) households and expanding access to clean energy for customers who otherwise would not be able to benefit.

At a time when Marylanders are facing significant increases in their utility bills, expanding access to community solar is one of the most immediate tools available to provide relief. Community solar subscribers receive consistent and considerable bill savings without the upfront costs of installing solar. For LMI households, these savings are both meaningful and predictable.

HB 1195 builds on the success of Maryland's community solar framework by creating new, practical pathways to ensure that additional LMI households can receive the full benefits of program participation. Under current law, community solar energy generating systems (CSEGs) must dedicate at least 40% of their kilowatt-hour output to LMI subscribers. The SUNRISE Act expands compliance flexibility by establishing two additional methods for satisfying this requirement:

1. Allowing CSEGs to dedicate 8% of annual output at no cost to eligible households through coordination with the Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) or the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA); and
2. Enabling coordination with OHEP or another local administering agency to identify and enroll eligible households directly.

These additional pathways are both pragmatic and impactful. By leveraging existing state agencies that already serve income-qualified households, HB 1195 ensures that CSEG bill credits reach the Marylanders who need relief the most – including hard-to-reach and vulnerable ratepayers who may not otherwise enroll in the state’s community solar program.

The bill also appropriately recognizes the broader system value of distributed solar and the role it can play in mitigating rising ratepayer costs. Because it serves local load, reduces peak demand, and avoids certain transmission and distribution investments, distributed generation reduces strain on an already congested grid rather than adding to it. That makes distributed solar part of the affordability solution — not a cost driver.

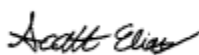
Equally important, HB 1195 also establishes a transparent and predictable pathway to modernize Maryland’s net metering framework and creates a structured transition to a successor program. For companies like CleanCapital — long-term owners and institutional capital providers to distributed generation developers nationwide — this regulatory certainty is essential. In Maryland, many projects currently under development are advancing with the expectation that capital providers like CleanCapital will acquire and own them upon completion. For those projects, clarity around transition rules is not academic — it is determinative. Regulatory uncertainty at the boundary between existing and successor programs directly affects whether capital can be committed to complete projects already in development.

That is why it is critical that the SUNRISE Act’s transition provisions (a) protect projects that have made material investments under the current framework and (b) provide clear, predictable rules for projects moving into the successor program. A well-designed transition will ensure Maryland continues attracting private capital to deploy one of the few energy resources that can be built quickly, reduce peak pressure, and deliver savings directly to customers.

CleanCapital respectfully urges the Environment & Transportation Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1195.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership on advancing equitable clean energy policy in Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Elias,

Director of Policy and Market Development  
CleanCapital  
[selias@cleancapital.com](mailto:selias@cleancapital.com)