



TESTIMONY OF
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MARYLAND DIRECTOR

—
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**HB1195- NET ENERGY METERING, SUNRISE PROGRAM, AND COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY
GENERATING SYSTEMS PROGRAM (SUNRISE ACT)**

FAVORABLE

MARCH 3, 2026

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

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), I am writing in strong support of HB1195, the SUNRISE Act. This bill takes an important step toward making clean energy more affordable and accessible for all Maryland residents. This testimony focuses on the language in the bill that will enable OHEP to administer, either directly or through local administering agencies, registration and enrollment of LMI accounts for community solar projects.

Today, many low- and moderate-income families in Maryland pay a much higher share of their income on energy than wealthier households. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, low-income households often spend a proportion of their income on energy that is three times higher than higher-income households.¹ Community solar is one of the most effective tools we have to change this and HB1195 makes community solar work better for the people who need it most. Solar energy projects provide the cheapest electrons possible to the electric grid.

Maryland's current community solar program already requires that 40% of each project's output serve low- and moderate-income subscribers, and participating households can save up to 20% on their electricity bills.² HB1195 builds directly on this foundation. By creating an opt-out enrollment system, the bill removes one of the biggest barriers for those families: the burden, knowledge required, trust required, and hassle of actively signing up. Instead, this bill will allow eligible households to be automatically enrolled and opt out if they choose. This simple change can significantly increase participation among families who face language barriers, limited internet access, or lack of time to navigate complex programs.

The bill also guarantees at least 20% savings on electric bills for enrolled low- and moderate-income customers and allows community solar systems to meet their low- and moderate-income requirements

¹ U.S. Department of Energy, via Maryland Energy Administration. *Maryland announces \$25 million grant program to fund home energy efficiency and solar for income-qualified residents.*

<https://nottinghammd.com/2025/10/22/maryland-announces-25-million-grant-program-to-fund-home-energy-efficiency-and-solar-for-income-qualified-residents/>

² Maryland Energy Administration. *Community Solar LMI-PPA Grant Program.*

<https://news.maryland.gov/mea/2024/02/12/in-push-to-make-maryland-more-affordable-for-all-maryland-energy-administration-offers-new-community-solar-grants/>

by dedicating 8% of their output directly to eligible households at no cost. These are concrete, meaningful protections, not just goals.

Accessing the low costs of clean energy should not be a privilege. SB0843 makes our community solar program more fair, more accessible, and more effective.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB1195.