

Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB0345 – Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act)
Submitted by: Donald M. Goldberg, Executive Director
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 10, 2026

Dear Chairman and Co-chair:

Climate Law & Policy Project (CLPP) is a Maryland-based nonprofit research organization that works to develop and promote sound and safe policies to slow, stop, and ultimately reverse the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and ensure that vulnerable communities are protected from climate impacts that cannot be avoided. CLPP supports HB0345.

HB0345 would facilitate the use of “balcony solar” — simple, portable, small-scale solar that can be plugged directly into a regular outlet to offset some electricity consumption. Such solar technologies can be an easy and effective way to deploy more clean energy around the state and to help reduce consumers’ electricity bills. Experience elsewhere has shown that the bill savings can be substantial. So far, these solar technologies are much more common in parts of Europe than in the United States, but they are rapidly gaining traction here as well. Utah passed legislation allowing them last year, and several other states are exploring it. Maryland should absolutely clear the way for increased use of this kind of easy, convenient, portable solar.

More broadly, HB0345 would advance deployment of all kinds of solar in Maryland, both distributed and utility-scale. Since solar power is a vital component of Maryland’s ability to meet its climate targets, CLPP supports these efforts.

CLPP respectfully urges a favorable report on this bill.