



HB1476 – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

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HB1476 – Public Service Commission – Net Energy Metering – Successor  
Program

Meeting of the Environment and Transportation Committee

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Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee, on behalf of Elders Climate Action Maryland, I urge a favorable report on HB1476.

Elders Climate Action is a nationwide organization devoted to ensuring that our children, grandchildren, and future generations have a world in which they can thrive. The Maryland Chapter has members across the state.

Each day, we see the climate crisis more clearly. We know that Maryland is at risk for sea level rise, flooding from intense rainfall, heat waves, and other extreme weather events. Maryland can also be a leader in moving us to a safer, cleaner future where we all can thrive. The clean energy transition is an essential part of that future.

Net metering has been key to Maryland's clean energy transition. Now that we are approaching the state-mandated cap of 3 GW, we need an orderly transition to a new net metering approach that will continue to make clean energy more affordable for Maryland families and support the growth of clean energy for years to come.

HB1476 doubles the cap on net metered systems in Maryland from 3 GW to 6 GW. It also instructs the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) to develop

and implement a successor program that incentivizes clean energy while focusing on affordability for ratepayers.

We know that the General Assembly is dealing with multiple energy bills this session. We believe that HB1476 can be improved by incorporating language from HB1195, the SUNRISE Act.

We recommend amending HB1476 to:

- Recognize the large number of projects that are currently in design, development, or financial closing. These projects may depend on the current net metering incentive for financial viability, and should be allowed to continue towards construction and interconnection to the grid. This would also eliminate a last-minute surge of speculative projects, steering them to the new system.
- Have the PSC lead a comprehensive process that fairly values distributed generation. It brings numerous benefits to system owners and ratepayers across the state, as well as supporting Maryland in meeting our climate goals under the Climate Solutions Now Act.

Passing this amended version of HB1476 would help make energy in Maryland cleaner and more affordable and boost our clean energy economy. For all of these reasons, we urge a favorable with amendments report on HB1476.

Thank you.