



Citizens' Climate Lobby
Maryland

TESTIMONY FOR HB0345

Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Charkoudian

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Person Submitting: Erica Bollerud, Citizens' Climate Lobby Volunteer Group Leader

Position: FAVORABLE

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

FROM: Erica Bollerud, Citizens' Climate Lobby Silver Spring-Takoma Park Chapter

My name is Erica Bollerud. I am a resident of District 20. I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0345 as a resident of Takoma Park, Maryland and as the group leader of the Silver Spring-Takoma Park Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby. Citizens' Climate Lobby is a national, nonpartisan, volunteer-driven climate advocacy group with over 3,000 Maryland members.

As a citizen lobbyist who cares deeply about accessible, equitable, effective climate solutions, I urge you to support HB0345. I am writing to support the provision of the bill that would legalize portable solar systems in particular. Portable solar (also known as 'balcony solar') could extend modular, safe, affordable and direct access to solar to many Maryland residents who are currently cut off from this source of clean energy.

These compact, portable solar systems plug directly into a standard outlet and require no rooftop installation. These systems feed solar generated power into the home to offset consumption, reducing household electricity bills, mitigating climate warming emissions, and, when paired with a battery, offering energy resilience to households.

Traditional rooftop solar is unavailable to many Marylanders, particularly renters, condo owners (like myself), lower-income households, and homeowners with shaded or otherwise unsuitable roofs. Legalizing balcony/portable solar projects will democratize access to solar to low income Marylanders, condo-owners and renters.

These solar systems have already been authorized by law in Utah, and bills to legalize them have been introduced in at least twenty other states in 2025-2026.

I strongly support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Bollerud

Silver Spring-Takoma Park Chapter Leader

Citizens' Climate Lobby

Takoma Park, MD 20912