

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

Organization Submitting: Chesapeake Earth Holders

Person Submitting: Jeffrey V. Johnson, co-founder and board member

Position: **FAVORABLE**

My name is Dr. Jeffrey V. Johnson and I live in Maryland Legislative District 10 in upper Baltimore County. I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0345 on behalf of the Chesapeake Earth Holders Community, a member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition and the Interfaith Power and Light DMV network of faith based congregations. Our members throughout Maryland strongly support the Affordable Solar Act. We have all been shocked at the rising utility bills that have occurred in the past year. Although some of us have already invested in solar panels for our homes, many of us live in apartments or in homes that do not allow for the installation of roof top solar. This bill would help so many Marylanders who have wanted to move to solar power but have been unable to do so for both practical and financial reasons. This bill would particularly help those who are renting, or who can't really afford expensive roof top systems. The Affordable Solar Act would extensively broaden the base of those who are able to benefit from this form of clean energy.

On a more personal note, I am a 77 year old retiree living on the western edge of Baltimore County in upper Reistertown. We have long power lines going out to the road and experience frequent power outages as do many others in the rural parts of our state. It would be a wonderful addition to our home if we could have a portable solar power system that we could afford along with batteries when the power goes out. For me and my neighbors the Affordable Solar Act has real benefits on a practical level.

By expanding the pool of Maryland Citizens who are using new types of portable solar systems the whole grid gets stronger because more and more people can pump some of their new, clean energy back into it. For all of these reasons we strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.