



Date: March 3, 2026

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Environment & Transportation Committee
Room 251, Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB1195: Net Energy Metering, SUNRISE Program, and Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program (SUNRISE Act)

Position: Favorable

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the Environment & Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide favorable testimony on HB 1195, Net Energy Metering, SUNRISE Program, and Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program (SUNRISE Act).

Lodestar Energy LLC (“Lodestar”) appreciates this opportunity to provide favorable testimony on HB1195, Net Energy Metering, SUNRISE Program, and Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program (SUNRISE Act). Lodestar is an East Coast-focused renewable energy developer with its development office located in New York. Lodestar has developed, owns and operates over 40 solar projects across its 10-year history, with an active pipeline of community solar projects in Maryland. We are committed to the continued success of renewable energy in the state and want to continue our investment in Maryland's economic development.

By doubling down on its commitment to local power, Maryland would recognize that distributed generation is essential to the State’s future. As regional electricity demand increases, Maryland has few tools in its toolbox to mitigate rapidly rising costs. These assets are uniquely valuable due to their small footprint and rapid ability to deploy - mitigating capacity price increases, keeping money in the pockets of Maryland ratepayers.

The SUNRISE Act recognizes that distributed solar helps to reduce homeowners’ and businesses’ bills while also bringing down grid costs. It sets up a transparent and predictable path to modernize the state’s net metering program. And, it establishes a new relationship between community solar projects and the Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) in order to create a direct path of savings to low-and-moderate income households. Maryland residents are facing

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extraordinary utility bill prices because of three main reasons:

1. We are primarily dependent on a natural gas heavy market
2. The infrastructure is old, and needs significant upkeep and capital investment
3. The PJM market is seeing historic prices due to projected capacity challenges as the region faces rising electricity demand, which is due to historic projected load growth

Clean, distributed generation helps to mitigate all of these costs. These projects are financed using private capital, and their role as grid assets bring unique benefits to the distribution grid that lowers consumer energy costs by lowering utility costs.

Service Territory	Capacity Deployed (MW)	Annual Impact	Estimated Capacity Value (current capped price)	NET RATEPAYER SAVINGS
BGE	524.2	\$8,918,119	\$73,388,000	\$64,469,881
Pepco	315.7	\$4,526,955	\$44,198,000	\$39,671,045
DPL	119.1	\$2,673,104	\$16,674,000	\$14,000,896
PE	127.1	\$1,314,842	\$17,794,000	\$16,479,158

Above is a snapshot of distributed solar currently operating in Maryland in each investor-owned utility territory. The net ratepayer savings is a component of the bill impacts net metering has for each utility, and the capacity value of that solar based on the last PJM auction. **Without this operating solar, Maryland utilities would have needed to procure an additional \$152 million in capacity in addition to the record capacity auction results that are causing electric bills to increase.**

It is essential to maximize how much distributed generation comes online. Hundreds of megawatts of capacity are currently under development within the current net metering program. Changes to existing rules could pull the rug out from this in-development capacity *and undermine investor confidence in future energy program buildouts in Maryland.*



In addition, coordinating the community solar program with OHEP would unlock direct solar benefits for low-income households. The energy affordability crisis has hurt those families the most who are eligible for energy assistance, Medicaid, food stamps and other public support programs. This program would allow community solar to augment the resources OHEP already has in place and enhance the ability of distributed solar to serve low-income households and communities.

Maryland should utilize distributed solar as a central tool to lowering consumer and utility energy costs with HB1195. We look forward to working with this Committee to ensure Maryland remains a national leader in local, reliable, and equitable power.

Lodestar asks the committee for a favorable report on HB1195.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "O. Sandreuter", is placed above the printed name.

Oliver Sandreuter
Director of Business Development