

Bill: Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credit (HB345)

House Committee: Environment and Transportation

Date of Testimony: February 10th, 2025

Organization: The Climate Mobilization, Montgomery County

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Del Korman and Vice Chair Del Guyton,

The Climate Mobilization, Montgomery County (TCM) urges a favorable report on HB0345, Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act). HB 345 and Senate Bill 341 establish the foundation Marylanders need to join the clean, affordable, and urgent energy transition our times demand.

Maryland is ready to lead on clean energy, and Marylanders are ready for change. Right now, Maryland families face some of the highest electricity costs in the nation and those costs keep rising. Electricity capacity auctions have cleared at record-high prices for the second year in a row.

Maryland families deserve real solutions that give us control over our energy future, not just more expensive bills.

We are ready to build a system that protects ratepayers while moving forward with clean energy.

HB0345 creates an escrow account system that ensures transparency and prevents utilities from passing excessive costs to customers. This approach balances our urgent need for clean energy with strong protections for our families and businesses.

In addition, HB0345 makes solar energy accessible to everyone independently of owning a house or not. The portable solar provisions open the door for renters to finally participate in the clean energy economy. A typical balcony system can reduce apartment electricity bills by 10-30%.² We believe energy independence should be available to all Marylanders, not just those who own homes, and this bill breaks down such barriers that have kept solar access out of reach.

Finally, we are ready to meet the climate crisis with real action. We need bold steps to increase our current 7% electricity from renewable sources 3% to meet our goal of 50% renewable energy by 2030. HB0345 moves us towards that goal.

For these reasons, TCM urge a favorable report on HB0345. Thank you for your consideration.

Nanci Wilkinson and Karl Hekd

The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County (TCM)