

Members of the House Committee

Position: Support

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Lumina Solar respectfully submits this testimony in **strong support** of House Bill 1104.

Lumina Solar is a Maryland-based solar company serving homeowners across the state. Our mission is to make clean energy affordable, accessible, and reliable for Maryland families. While Maryland has made meaningful progress toward its renewable energy goals, inconsistent local permitting and inspection processes remain one of the most significant barriers to timely and cost-effective residential solar deployment.

HB1104 represents a thoughtful and necessary modernization of Maryland's residential solar permitting framework.

HB1104 modernizes solar permitting by requiring automated, code-compliant plan review and rapid permit issuance. Today, approvals can take up to 45 days, compared to 1–3 business days in SolarAPP+ jurisdictions, delaying projects and customer savings. **Over \$45,000 in amendment related rework last year highlights the need for standardized automation** to improve consistency, cut administrative timelines, and eliminate avoidable costs

The bill's requirement that jurisdictions authorize remote inspections by August 1, 2027 is **expected to reduce our annual inspection costs by \$510,000, or 83%**, from approximately \$610,000 to \$100,000, **while also accelerating project completion**. Enabling inspections through photographs or recorded video will reduce administrative burden for municipalities and contractors, avoid unnecessary scheduling delays, minimize disruption to homeowners, and allow in-person inspection resources to be focused on higher-priority and more complex work.

Additionally, the \$200 cap on solar permitting fees provides essential predictability and transparency. Excessive and inconsistent fees add unnecessary cost to residential solar projects. Last year alone, Lumina spent over \$550,000 on permitting fees; **this permitting fee cap would reduce that total by more than 45%**. By defining "solar permitting fee" to include all associated charges, the bill promotes fairness and prevents hidden costs from being passed on to Maryland homeowners.

Maryland has established ambitious clean energy goals. Achieving them requires modernizing the administrative systems that govern residential solar deployment. Consistent adoption of the same codes and regulations across all municipalities will create a more efficient process and deliver measurable time and cost savings for both customers and businesses.

Lumina Solar respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 1104 and to continue advancing policies that support safe, efficient, and accessible solar energy across the state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lumina Solar