



HB1195

**Net Energy Metering, SUNRISE Program, and Community Solar Energy
Generating Systems Program (SUNRISE Act)**

Testimony before the Environment and Transportation Committee

Hearing Date: March 3rd, 2026

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Delegate Korman and Co-Chair Guyton, and members of the committee, my name is Julia Lawrence, and I represent the 1700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of HB1195**. We thank Delegate Stein for introducing this bill.

HB1195 (The Sunrise Act) supports Maryland's transition from a pilot community solar program to a permanent and more equitable statewide program thereby addressing Maryland's clean energy goals. It requires the Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) to run or work with local agencies to run programs that help low- and moderate-income (LMI) households participate in the Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program. HB1195 helps ensure that the state's capacity calculations are accurate and that solar projects are not blocked or delayed due to outdated accounting rules. It is designed to help LMI households more easily manage community solar and net energy metering by changing the way rated generating capacity of solar projects is counted toward Maryland's net energy metering limit. HB1195 aids Maryland's ability to track renewable energy growth, improving grid planning and management of renewable energy.

We are supporting the Sunrise Act because it directly supports LMI households by increasing their ability to access community solar, empowering them by removing barriers and opening the door to savings. These families are more apt to have difficulty participating in renewable energy programs. This bill is a positive step toward an energy future in Maryland and provides for a future which is more equitable, affordable, and sustainable.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Julia Lawrence
Columbia, MD 21044
Maryland Legislative District 12A