



24 February 2026

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

### Written Testimony

#### **HB723: Electric Companies – Cost Containment Plans – Requirement (Securing Affordable, Valuable Investments in Next Generation Grid Solutions (SAVINGS) Act)**

#### **Position: Favorable**

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Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the Environment & Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify favorably on HB 723, the SAVINGS Act.

I am Robin Dutta, the Executive Director of the Chesapeake Solar and Storage Association (CHESSA). Our association advocates for our member companies who represent all market segments across the solar and energy storage industries. Many members are Maryland-based. Others are regional and national companies with an interest and/or business footprint in the state. Our purpose is to promote the mainstream adoption of local solar, large-scale solar, and battery storage throughout the electric grid to realize a stable and affordable grid for all consumers. We are the regional affiliate of the national Solar Energy Industries Association.

I am here to provide favorable testimony on HB723, Electric Companies – Cost Containment Plans – Requirement (Securing Affordable, Valuable Investments in Next Generation Grid Solutions (SAVINGS) Act).

The data shows that distributed solar and storage strategies are scalable and help the electric grid. According to a study from the independent consulting firm The Brattle Group, distributed resources, which include a range of advanced energy technologies (such as local solar, storage, smart appliances, internet-connected thermostats, and energy management software) [provide the same resource adequacy as a natural gas plant at 40-60 percent lower cost](#). The firm Deloitte analyzed the benefits that distributed energy resources including rooftop solar could deploy throughout local distribution grids [in a 2024 report](#). Their conclusion was that scaling up the deployment and adoption of residential solar and related distributed resources would contribute to improved resiliency, reliability, and resource adequacy.

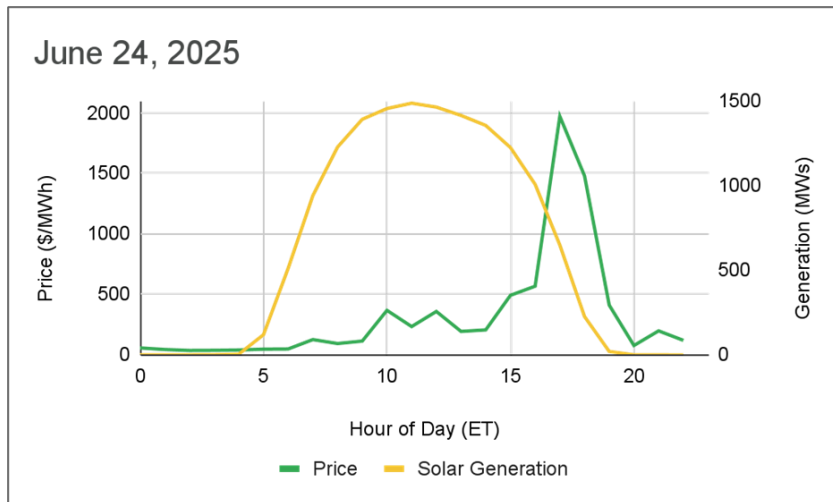


50 MW solar		\$7 million/yr avoided capacity costs for utilities
2,628 MW in-state solar		\$28-40 million/yr estimated reduced grid costs
2,628 MW solar + 4-hr storage pairing		\$183 million/yr potential reduced grid costs

Source: Witness Aloo, Case No. 9820 and PJM’s ELCC Class Ratings for the 2026/27 Base Residual Auction and analysis of public utility data by Align Energy Advisors

The figure above highlights what benefits distributed solar provides Maryland today, as well as what it could provide. More solar should be paired with storage, and more solar means more ability to lower peak demand for all utility territories. As the PJM Base Residual Auction clearing price increases, distributed solar becomes more valuable for reducing Maryland’s exposure to those high-price auctions.

As Maryland consumers generate and use more distributed solar generation, the utilities do not have to procure as much energy via PJM or from out-of-state.



Source: PJM BGE Real Time LMP v. PJM Mid Atlantic Solar Generation Profile

The graph titled “June 24, 2025” shows the spike in energy prices and solar generation in Maryland for that day. Solar generation naturally helps to offset demand in peak periods, which occur during the day. The concentration of electricity costs occurs during peak demand periods,



and when solar off sets some or all of that demand, it helps to lower prices across the grid. All ratepayers can benefit from avoiding those costs.

Meeting resource adequacy needs and growing electric demand can be an expensive proposition for the ratepayer. Utility-centric solutions are fully funded by the ratepayer. Wholesale energy solutions do not address local resiliency and reliability needs. All-of-the-above solar and storage strategies mean creating incentives that leverage private capital instead of directing ratepayers to foot the entire bill. Maryland has an energy problem that clean energy is ready to solve.

HB723 would unleash the suite of advanced energy technologies to actively lower grid peak demand, creating new resources for the utilities to leverage instead of either buying dirty, expensive electricity or rationing electricity locally. Load growth and peak demand are two of the main factors driving up electricity prices. Lowering peak demand at the source with new advanced energy technologies, such as solar and battery storage, is one of the most effective ways to put downward pressure on utility costs and energy prices.

CHESSA urges a favorable report on HB723.

Please reach out with any questions. CHESSA is here to be a resource to the committee.

Sincerely,

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