



## **HB1476: Public Service Commission - Net Energy Metering - Successor Program**

### **Position: Favorable**

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Cc: Members of the Committee

Chair Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Economic Action Maryland Fund urges a favorable report on HB1476, which would provide cost-savings to ratepayers by creating a successor net metering program designed to center ratepayer costs and benefits.

As the members of this committee are painfully aware, energy rates have risen dramatically in recent years due to a variety of factors. Thousands of Marylanders each year face shutoff notices due to nonpayment, while many others are forced to juggle multi-hundred-dollar utility bills alongside the ever-increasing costs of rent, groceries, and other necessities. In fact, when Economic Action Maryland Fund surveyed our members and other stakeholders this winter, 63% stated utility bills were their primary concern.

It is widely recognized that net metering provides benefits to not just the individual, but ratepayers as a whole.<sup>1</sup> A significant driver of energy prices in Maryland is the skyrocketing cost of energy supply. Net metering encourages individual investment in solar, and ensures that new energy production is accounted for in the grid. While this results in long-term cost savings it is a critical piece of the solution to address the acceleration of energy costs.

In addition, community solar projects - which can provide direct savings to low- to moderate-income subscribers - rely on net metering. A net metering successor program is critical to ensure those vulnerable Marylanders continue to receive benefits.

We would support additional language to specifically look at the costs and benefits that net metered energy generation could provide to LMI ratepayers and urge a favorable report on HB1476.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Deputy Director

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/rooftop-solar-net-metering-is-a-net-benefit/>

*Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.*