



HB0990 – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

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HB0990 – Public Utilities – Small Solar Energy Generating System Incentive Program – Eligibility and Generating Capacity

Meeting of the Environment and Transportation Committee

March 3, 2026

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee, on behalf of Elders Climate Action Maryland, I urge a favorable with amendments report on HB0990.

Elders Climate Action is a nationwide organization devoted to ensuring that our children, grandchildren, and future generations have a world in which they can thrive. The Maryland Chapter has members across the state.

Each day, we see the climate crisis more clearly. We know that Maryland is at risk for sea level rise, flooding from intense rainfall, heat waves, and other extreme weather events. Maryland can also be a leader in moving us to a safer, cleaner future where we all can thrive. The clean energy transition is an essential part of that future.

We are also acutely aware of the affordability challenges many Maryland households face. Rising utility bills are a large part of that problem. For those of us on fixed incomes, including many of our members, this is a growing concern.

Electricity demand is rising in Maryland and across the country. Solar and wind energy are the cheapest and cleanest new energy sources and the fastest to develop.

HB0990 makes it easier and more cost-effective for Maryland residents and small businesses to use solar energy to reduce their utility bills for years to come. The new generation will also improve grid reliability and reduce the need for expensive new transmission capacity.

The bill extends the current Small Solar Energy Generating System Incentive Program from 2028 to 2031. It also doubles the cap for larger systems to 540 MW.

The General Assembly is considering many energy bills this session. We strongly support HB0345/SB0341, the Affordable Solar Act, because we believe it is the best vehicle for stimulating new clean energy generation in Maryland and making energy more affordable. We would like to see HB0990 amended to conform to the Affordable Solar Act and to be incorporated into that bill.

For all of these reasons, we strongly urge a favorable with amendments report on HB0990. Thank you.