



Maryland Conservation Council
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Climate Law &
Policy Project



SIERRA CLUB
MARYLAND CHAPTER



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

The Nature
Conservancy 
Maryland/DC

February 19, 2020

SUPPORT: SB592 State-Funded Construction and Major Renovation Projects – Solar Panels – Requirement

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

The above-signed organizations strongly support SB592 State-Funded Construction and Major Renovation Projects – Solar Panels – Requirement.

Last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed the ambitious Clean Energy Jobs Act, which dramatically expanded our Maryland's commitment to renewable energy, especially in-state generation of solar energy. This ambitious, but achievable, legislation mandated that 50% of our energy be derived from these renewable sources and makes Maryland a leader in renewable energy policy.

In order to achieve these goals, while maintaining our cherished open-space vistas and protecting our agricultural sector, we must look to expand our energy production to the built environment wherever possible. This includes large rooftops, such as those identified in SB592. This bill takes the first step towards reinforcing the state's commitment to in-state production of solar by ensuring that large buildings built with state resources are built with maximum solar panels.

This bill pairs well with the work of the Maryland Department of Transportation to develop a master contract for solar on state facilities. If passed these two programs could help accelerate deployment on state facilities, off-setting costs and supporting the clean energy jobs economy. Last year a report was released that surveyed interested parties on solar deployment and one of the common themes was a desire to open up more opportunities for development in the built environment. SB592 demonstrates the states willingness to achieve this goal of increasing solar development on the built environment.

We applaud Senator West for his commitment to renewable energy, and for his leadership on this issue, and we strongly urge a favorable report on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.