



**Before the General Assembly of the State of Maryland
Senate Finance Committee
February 16, 2021**

**Testimony of David W. Murray
Executive Director
Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association
SB 460: Economic Development - Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation
Investments and Initiatives
FAVORABLE**

On behalf of the Maryland solar industry, I am writing to request your favorable support for Senate Bill 460. We applaud Senator Feldman for his leadership in making a smart investment in the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) and its subsidiary the Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator (MEIA). This will support the successful adoption of solar energy generation and energy storage technologies.

MCEC provides significant value to the solar industry through innovative finance and technical expertise. By leveraging capital where the private market otherwise would not, MCEC plays a vital role in financing innovative renewable energy projects. In addition to financing, MCEC supports key partnerships and relationships to create business and employment opportunities.

Throughout my tenure as Executive Director, I have appreciated working alongside Kathy Magruder, Pamela Powers, and Sabrina Bachmann and participating in legislative review sessions, networking events, and conferences. The institution serves as a hub for clean energy and efficiency issues for the state, the SB460 would solidify this role in the long term.

To date, MCEC has leveraged private investment at ratio of approximately 10 to 1 for every public dollar spent, to succeed at its statute directed mission. This includes advancing adoption of clean energy and energy efficiency products, services, and innovative new technologies which support thousands of jobs in Maryland. For this success to continue MCEC must have a stable definitive commitment of revenue to help support its operation, and signal to project partners and capital providers that they can predictably count on MCEC for investment transactions.

The Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association recommends a favorable vote on SB 460.

Sincerely,

David Murray
Executive Director
Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association (CHESSA, formerly MDV-SEIA)