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Appropriations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 469
State-Funded Construction and Major Renovation Projects - Solar Panels – Requirement
Testimony of Delegate Cathi Forbes
Hearing February 17, 2021 at 1:30 pm
Health and Government Operations

What this bill does

This bill would require that state construction or major renovation projects, as well as local construction projects that receive state funding, be designed, engineered, and constructed with solar panels on the roof.

Why this bill matters

Maryland's current renewable energy goal is 30.8% from Tier 1 sources, including 7.5% from solar energy. By 2030, the renewable energy goal is 50%, with 14.5% from solar energy.

According to the Department of Natural Resources [Final Report of the Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard](#), page 43, issued in December, 2019, Maryland will not meet the solar carve-out requirement goals between 2020 and 2029.

With the veto override of Maryland's Blueprint for Education, the Built to Learn Act will be taking effect. This program will invest an additional \$2.2 billion in school construction over five years. All of those buildings that have a roof expanse of more than 4,000 square feet should be engineered with solar panels and should have the infrastructure to collect the energy on site. The bill is a logical companion to the Built to Learn Act.

Who benefits from this bill

This bill benefits Maryland taxpayers, as the ongoing costs of operating these buildings will be lower. The growing clean jobs economy also benefits, and of course ultimately, the planet itself benefits from solar energy.

Further, this bill mandates the collection of solar at the site where it will be used. This is a more efficient and fiscally responsible method of collection than transferring the energy from “solar farms,” which inevitably result in a certain amount of energy loss during the transfer from remote locations.

Why you should vote for this bill

This is an opportunity for the state to lead by example. We can’t expect private industry to make these important changes if we, ourselves, aren’t making them.

In 2021, our state construction dollars should be investing in energy from renewable resources. It’s the right thing to do, and this is the perfect opportunity to do it. Thank you.

I ask for a favorable report on HB469.