



SUPPORT
House Bill 440

Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems – Generating Capacity

Economic Matters Committee
February 10, 2022

Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair, Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association (CHESSA), thank you for the opportunity to issue our **SUPPORT of House Bill 440**, which would increase community solar generating capacity from 2 MW to 5 MW. Community solar projects are typically within a geographic area, in which the benefits of a solar project flow to multiple customers such as individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and other groups that receive credit on their electric bills for the energy produced by the project. One of the beauties of community solar is that it empowers local communities to take ownership of projects and play a key role in addressing climate change by reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Raising the community solar generating capacity is critical for several reasons. First, our east coast neighbors like New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and Maine all have a maximum individual community solar project capacity of 5 MW. For Maryland to remain competitive in attracting development of these projects, it is important we are on par with our region. Second, this would merely empower our local communities with the same benefit we afford our local governments. Last session, Chapter 625 (Senate Bill 508) authorized local governments to enter into community solar agreements up to 5 MW as long as the local government was the customer. Third, community solar projects of 2 MW are relatively small and expensive. Increasing the capacity to 5 MW will allow developers to use economies of scale to reduce per megawatt costs. Those savings are passed on to ratepayers in the form of lower electricity costs.

On behalf of CHESSA, thank you for your support of Maryland's solar industry and urge of favorable report on House Bill 440.

Submitted by:
Scott Elias, Solar Energy Industries Association on behalf of CHESSA