



Favorable

February 10, 2022

House Economic Matters Committee

Electricity - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Generating Capacity (HB0440)

Good Afternoon Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB440. My name is John Finnerty, I am a Business Development Director at Rockville based Standard Solar Inc. Standard Solar has grown to be leading national financier and developer of distributed generation (DG) and small utility-scale solar projects. During my dozen years or so at Standard Solar I have served six years on the board of directors of MDVSEIA which is now CHESSA, and was honored to serve on Governor Hogan's 2019 Renewable Energy Development and Siting Task Force (REDS).

I am here today in support of HB440, expanding the community solar project cap to 5MW. This builds on the success of the CS Pilot program, it facilitates additional subscribers and it would raise Maryland to match the same 5MW project cap in many surrounding states.

The Community solar pilot program is successful public policy. The results today and in future are transparent, measurable and effective for statewide economic growth. At Standard we have seen firsthand the positive benefits that CS projects bring to individuals, businesses, and communities.

Our community solar projects to date are serving over 4,000 Maryland households including over 1,200 LMI subscribers. The projects span statewide in all three Exelon service territories and Potomac Edison. Additional Maryland households and businesses will benefit with the passage of HB440.

In summary we see passage of HB440 will deliver the following benefits to Maryland and its citizens including:

- Advancement of MD CEJA goals by 2030
- Opens more access to Marylanders to participate in solar generation
- Better utilize brownfield acreage and open parking lots
- Improve cost efficiency of utility interconnections
- Generate additional long-term bankable rent revenue to host property owners
- Continue Maryland's energy and technology leadership
- and continue to expand direct investment and job growth statewide

Standard Solar is active nationally with community solar programs and has co-developed, funded and operates over 120MW of projects in Colorado, Minnesota, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, DC



and New York. The results in Maryland mirror the success in many states. The programs have seen rapid acceptance from ratepayers with available project subscriptions selling out quickly and often while designated projects are still in construction.

Community solar is one segment of the solar generation mix in Maryland, including residential, C&I, municipal, and utility scale. It continues to deliver smart value, savings, investment, and revenue to the Maryland economy.

I urge the Committee to support a Favorable vote on HB440.

Thank you,

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