



**Committee: Economic Matters**

**Testimony on: HB1261 - Community Solar Energy Generation Systems  
–Pilot Program-Alterations**

**Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing**

**Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: March 10, 2022**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB1261. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB1261.

This bill amends the Community Solar Pilot Project to allow households that are outside of the service area for a particular Community Solar Project to be allowed to subscribe to that project..

Community solar projects are a critical component to meeting Maryland’s climate goals and targets because they provide renewable energy to families and building owners that cannot otherwise install or afford solar energy and because such projects increase the amount of clean, renewable energy on the grid. Anyone who receives an electric bill can benefit from community solar including renters, residents in multi-unit buildings, municipalities, nonprofits and businesses that don’t own their roofs.

A barrier to taking advantage of Community Solar is that often the project in your subscriber area is at capacity for subscribers, while others outside your subscriber area have not enough subscribers. This results in potential subscribers being turned away. This bill fixes that problem.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report for HB1261.

**MLC Climate Justice Wing:**

Assateague Coastal Trust

Maryland Legislative Coalition

MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network  
WISE  
Frack Free Frostburg  
Mountain Maryland Movement

Howard County Indivisible  
Howard County Sierra Club  
Columbia Association Climate Change and Sustainability Advisory Committee  
HoCo Climate Action  
CHEER  
Climate XChange - Maryland  
Mid-Atlantic Field Representative/  
National Parks Conservation Association  
350 Montgomery County  
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization  
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County  
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions  
Montgomery Countryside Alliance  
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee  
Audubon Naturalist Society  
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church  
Environmental Justice Ministry  
Coalition For Smarter Growth  
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County  
MCPS Clean Energy Campaign  
MoCo DCC  
Potomac Conservancy  
Casa de Maryland  
Nuclear Information & Resource Service  
Clean Air Prince Georges  
Laurel Resist  
Greenbelt Climate Action Network  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs  
Wicomico NAACP  
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Chispa MD  
Climate Law & Policy Project  
Maryland Poor People's Campaign  
Labor Network for Sustainability  
The Nature Conservancy  
Clean Air Prince Georges  
350 Baltimore  
Maryland Environmental Health Network  
Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis  
Talbot Rising  
Adat Shalom Climate Action  
Chesapeake Earth Holders  
Climate Parents of Prince Georges  
Echotopia  
Maryland NAACP State Conference,  
Environmental Justice Committee