



**TESTIMONY FOR HB1261  
COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEMS PILOT PROGRAM -  
ALTERATIONS**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Queen

**Committee:** Economic Matters

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1261 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

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.

When I lived in Olney, I was part of a community solar project. I liked having clean, renewable energy and I liked that I was supporting the growth of the solar industry. Additionally, having solar was more affordable and I got a credit on my Pepco bill.

However, when I moved to Frederick, I was outside of the area for the old community solar project, and had to wait a year for the project in Frederick to go live. This is an unnecessary barrier to taking advantage of Community Solar.

Alternatively, there are cases where 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. However, at the end of the day, it should not matter where the project is. Maryland should make this process easier so that more people are encouraged to use community solar.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.