



Mayor and Council of Rockville

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**HB 1435: ELECTRICITY – RENEWABLE ENERGY – NET ENERGY
METERING AGGREGATION, SOLAR RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS,
AND TAXES ON SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEMS
(BRIGHTER TOMORROW ACT)
SUPPORT**

The City of Rockville is thankful to Chairman Wilson and members of the House Economic Matters Committee for the opportunity to provide written comments regarding HB 1435. We are thankful to Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo for sponsoring this important legislation.

The City of Rockville, with its population of nearly 70,000, adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2022 with goals to increase the Maryland Renewable Energy Standard, increase the number of private solar installations in the city, and increase the number of solar systems installed on city-owned buildings and property.

Accordingly, the City of Rockville Mayor and Council unanimously support HB 1435 as it demonstrates state leadership to increase investment in renewable electricity generating systems in Maryland. This important legislation codifies several of the recommendations from the Maryland Task Force to Study Solar Incentives and removes barriers to installing net-metered small solar systems, which are needed to meet the energy goals established in Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard. The legislation establishes a Small Solar Energy Generating System Incentive Program that increases the renewable energy credits for small systems located on rooftops, parking canopies, or brownfields. This incentive is needed to help offset the costs of building smaller systems in urban and suburban environments. The Brighter Tomorrow Act also eliminates state property taxes assessed for nonresidential rooftop or parking canopy solar and allows counties and municipalities to exempt parking canopy solar from their local property tax. While this reasonable adjustment may slightly impact revenue opportunities for local governments, this adjustment is a small trade-off to incentivize these important systems.

Succinctly, City of Rockville Mayor and Council strongly support the General Assembly's efforts to facilitate expansion of renewable energy systems in Maryland. We urge the Committee to provide this legislation with a favorable report. We thank the Committee for considering Rockville's comments as it deliberates the merits of this legislation.