

DAVID S. LAPP
PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

WILLIAM F. FIELDS
DEPUTY PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

JOSEPH G. CLEAVER
DEPUTY PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

————— OPC —————
OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL
State of Maryland

6 ST. PAUL STREET, SUITE 2102
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202
WWW.OPC.MARYLAND.GOV

BRANDI NIELAND
DIRECTOR, CONSUMER
ASSISTANCE UNIT

BILL NO.: House Bill 818
Electricity - Community Solar Energy Generation -
Consolidated Billing

COMMITTEE: Economic Matters

HEARING DATE: February 24, 2022

SPONSOR: Delegate Clippinger

POSITION: Support

The Office of People's Counsel supports House Bill 818.

HB 818 would permit community solar organizations to utilize the billing systems of local utilities. Many customers who may wish to subscribe to community solar lack access to conventional banking and credit services. If the community solar organization only accepts payment from a credit card, many low-income customers will be prevented from subscribing to the community solar program, inhibiting the General Assembly's goals in adopting the program.

HB 818 allows community solar organizations to utilize the billing system of the local utilities to charge customers for the output of their solar systems. HB 818 retains the Commission's ability to review utility consolidated billing practices and the allocation of costs for providing the service. That Commission review helps ensure that the goals of the bill are met in a manner that is beneficial to all customers.

Recommendation: OPC requests a favorable report from the Economic Matters Committee to HB 818.