

Raise the Non-residential Net Metering Project Cap

SUPPORT HB 1950/SB 1395: Grow Virginia's Clean Energy Economy

Clean, renewable forms of energy are experiencing unprecedented growth in the U.S. and solar is leading the way. By embracing simple, common-sense changes to existing law, Virginia can reduce its carbon footprint while closing the investment gap for clean energy. **One easy fix is to raise the net-metering project cap for non-residential customers from the existing 500 kilowatt (kW) limit to a more competitive 1 megawatt (MW) limit.**

Substitute Bill Overview

- **Doubles Cap to 1MW.** The original bill raised the non-residential project cap for solar net-metering customers from 500 kilowatts to 2 megawatts. The substitute doubles the cap from 500kw to 1MW after a compromise from all stakeholders
- **Solar Cap Fits Annual Usage.** The bill also ensures that the purpose of solar net metering is to offset a customer's energy usage. It does this by placing a total size cap as described above and limiting installations to expected annual energy consumption based on the previous 12 months of billing history
- **Advanced Notification and Approval.** The substitute also requires the customer to give advanced notice to and receive approval from the utility before installation of solar projects. This benefits the utility for planning purposes and protects the customer by ensuring solar projects are properly sized and planned

Positions Virginia to be more competitive with neighboring states

- Existing cap much lower than neighboring states
 - Virginia – 500 kw
 - North Carolina – 1,000 kw (1 MW)
 - Maryland – 2,000 kw (2 MW)

Support clean energy job growth and economic development

- Incentivizes new investments in clean energy, attracting new industries in Virginia
 - North Carolina economic investments: \$787 million (2013)
 - Maryland economic investments: \$113 million (2013)
 - Virginia economic investments: \$21 million (2013)

Provides customer and grid benefits

- Allows more customers freedom of choice in how to power their businesses
- Provides utility and grid benefits like peak demand costs, grid expansion costs, and avoided generation costs