



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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March 5, 2020

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB1390 - Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity -
Electric Facilities - Study and Procedures**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 1390. This bill adds requirements to the evaluations conducted and notifications made as part of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process and prohibits a local government from taking adverse actions related to CPCN projects. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is prohibited from requiring a CPCN applicant for a generating station to apply for or receive local zoning approvals and may likewise not deny a CPCN for the same reasons. The bill also establishes requirements for CPCNs for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and excludes the installation of visual buffering, including vegetative screening and fencing, from the definition of “construction” for purposes of the CPCN process.

This bill strips most of a county's ability to weigh in on where commercial solar facilities can be sited. This bill strengthens the preemption option and forces the PSC to move solar projects forward even if there are significant issues and opposition to the site.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:

- We oppose the state of Maryland preemption of local and county land use policy for renewable energy generation projects. We do not support commercial solar energy facilities being built on prime and productive farmland specifically priority preservation areas.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 1390

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