



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1039

Property Tax – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems – Agrivoltaics

Date: March 1, 2022

Position: **Support**

To: Ways and Means

From: Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 1039 which provides a property tax exemption for community solar energy generating systems that are used for agrivoltaics or are installed on a rooftop, brownfield, landfill, or clean fill.

CBF supports the expansion of community solar generating systems but has expressed concern regarding the general lack of siting criteria for solar projects in Maryland that has resulted in many community solar installations being placed on prime farmland or forests.

This bill encourages siting community solar installations in locations that will have minimal impact on these lands important for maintaining a healthy food supply and protection of our streams, rivers and Chesapeake Bay.

We believe that carefully planned agrivoltaics projects can maximize farmer revenues from grazing and other perennial crops that have been proven to regenerate soil organic matter, biodiversity, water retention and carbon sequestration.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1039. For more information, please contact Robin Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at rclark@cbf.org and 443.995.8753.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.