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HB 908 - Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program

Committee: Economic Matters

MGPA Position: **SUPPORT with Amendments**

The Maryland Grain Producers Association serves as the voice of grain farmers growing corn, wheat, barley and sorghum across the state. On an annual basis, nearly a million acres of these crops are grown in Maryland.

House Bill 908 makes the Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Pilot Program a permanent program. The bill defines “agrivoltaics” to mean the simultaneous use of areas of land for both solar power generation and agriculture. The bill also removes the requirement for a facility over 2 megawatts and up to 5 megawatts to not have to go before the Public Service Commission and receive a Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity (CPCN).

Maryland Grain Producers supports House Bill 908 with amendments to prohibit solar energy generation on class 1 and 2 soils which are the most productive soils. More than 30% of Maryland agricultural soils are class 3 or lower leaving plenty of areas for solar generation that does not threaten food security.

MGPA respectfully asks for a FAVORABLE with amendment report on House Bill 908.