



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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February 21, 2023

To: Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of SB 143 - Electricity – Net Energy Metering – Accrual of Net Excess Generation (Net Metering Flexibility Act)**

On behalf of our Farm Bureau member families in Maryland, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 143, legislation that does two things. It moves the year end billing cycle from the end of April to the end of August. However, the primary focus of the bill is to create the ability to accrue net excess generation indefinitely instead of just until the year end billing cycle. A net energy generator can still decide to remain on the year-by-year system and be paid the dollar value of the excess energy produced for the year. However, if the net energy generator decides to take the indefinite accrual option, all excess net energy accrued shall be forfeited at the time the account is closed.

Many farms have used this valuable net metering option for several years now to offset their electric usage with renewable solar energy. Because their electric usage fluctuates annually based on the weather, having the flexibility to roll over excess energy generated yearly, allows the farmer to reduce electric cost and improve their bottom line while continuing to assist with addressing climate change.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:

We support the use of on-farm wind and solar energy production to provide electric energy for the farm and to be sold to the energy grid. We encourage state and county governments to provide regulatory support and encouragement for wind turbines and solar to help offset farm energy costs.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 143 & REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396