



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 469

Task Force to Study Solar Tax Incentives

Date: March 30, 2023

To: Ways & Means Committee

Position: **Favorable**

From: Matt Stegman
Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 469 which establishes a task force to study Maryland's tax incentives for solar energy generation and use. The task force will make a report with recommendations to the General Assembly ahead of the 2024 legislative session.

CBF generally supports accelerating the transition to solar power as a way to reduce greenhouse gases from the combustion of fossil fuels which are causing climate instability and oxides of nitrogen, which become bay pollutants when it rains. However, in some instances solar projects present a risk of adverse impacts on forests or the loss of environmentally beneficial farmland.¹ Establishing the task force created by SB 469 is a prudent decision and will help ensure that Maryland's tax incentives for solar energy align with the state's other environmental, labor, and equity priorities and are designed to be attractive to consumers and the industry alike.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 469.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

¹ For additional information on solar best practices, see "Principles and Practices for Realizing the Necessity and Promise of Solar Power.", *Chesapeake Bay Foundation*, April 2020, <https://www.cbf.org/document-library/cbf-guides-fact-sheets/principles-and-practices-for-solar-power.pdf>

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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.