

County Commissioners:

James J. Moran, At Large Jack N. Wilson, Jr., District 1 J. Patrick McLaughlin, District 2 Philip L. Dumenil, District 3 Christopher M. Corchiarino, District 4

February 27, 2024

The Honorable C.T. Wilson Chairman, Economic Matters Committee House Office Building, Room 231 Annapolis MD 21401

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

The Liberty Building 107 North Liberty Street Centreville, MD 21617

e-mail: QACCommissioners&Administrator@qac.org

County Administrator: Todd R. Mohn, PE Executive Assistant to County Commissioners: Margie A. Houck County Attorney: Patrick Thompson, Esquire

RE: HB1407 – County Tier 1 Renewable Sources – Generating Systems, Capacity, and Generation – Prohibition, Studies, and Plans OPPOSITION

Dear Chairman Wilson,

Please consider this letter of <u>opposition</u> for House Bill 1407. This bill establishes a clear path for the preemption of local zoning authority by restricting and prohibiting local zoning laws that regulate the construction or operation of Tier 1 renewable source generating systems or facilities. Further, this bill establishes a path of extensive Public Service Commission oversite and compliance authority over local jurisdictions. HB1407 outlines very broad strokes concerning counties' roles in meeting certain renewable energy portfolio standard requirements. The details of this bill do not contemplate local land use, comprehensive planning, or economic factors that would otherwise allow counties to partner with the State to achieve renewable energy portfolio goals.

Additionally, prohibiting a local jurisdiction's authority to zone such a wide range of uses ranging from solar energy to poultry litter and waste to energy systems simply cannot be supported or justified. There are resounding unintended consequences of usurping local zoning authority for methane, poultry litter, waste, refuse, and raw wastewater sources, as well as solar, wind, geothermal, and hydroelectric sources. There must be some recognition of the populations impacted by such decisions. The siting of Tier 1 systems would be in direct conflict with the Queen Anne's County Comprehensive Plan and long-standing land use and property rights assurances provided by QAC Zoning Code which is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to oppose this legislation.

Respectfully,

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

James J. Moran, President

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