



Maryland Farm Bureau

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To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

On behalf of the member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit testimony in opposition to HB1407. This bill would prohibit counties from establishing zoning laws or other regulations that restrict or prohibit the construction or operation of Tier 1 renewable source generating systems or facilities, require the Public Service Commission to study the electricity demand in each county and determine the amount of capacity of, and energy generation from, Tier 1 renewable sources needed in each county for the State to meet certain renewable energy portfolio standard requirements.

Maryland Farm Bureau has the most concern with the language on page 3 lines 23-25. The members of the Maryland Farm Bureau believe in local control over state preemption. Maryland Farm Bureau has policy that states, “We urge local control of any growth management programs and zoning regulations within our state. We would like to urge local control and oppose a state preemption. We oppose the State of Maryland preemption of local and county land use policy for 918 renewable energy generation projects.” Each county has unique geographical, economic, and social circumstances that should be taken into account when making decisions related to renewable energy. A one-size-fits-all approach mandated by the state might not be suitable for all counties. Limiting local autonomy and not accounting for diverse circumstances, could lead to unintended consequences or hinder the ability of local governments to address the unique needs and preferences of their communities.

MDFB Policy: We urge local control of any growth management programs and zoning regulations within our state. We would like to urge local control and oppose a state preemption. We oppose the State of Maryland preemption of local and county land use policy for 918 renewable energy generation projects.

Maryland Farm Bureau Respectfully Opposes HB1407

Tyler Hough
Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough, (443) 878-4045 with any questions