

COMMISSIONERS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

11916 SOMERSET AVENUE, ROOM 111
PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND 21853
TELEPHONE 410-651-0320, FAX 410-651-0366

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RANDY LAIRD, VICE-PRESIDENT
CRAIG N. MATHIES, SR.
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COUNTY ATTORNEY
KIRK G. SIMPKINS

February 20, 2024

Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
231 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

Dear Chairman Wilson and Committee Members:

The Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County wish to express their opposition regarding Maryland House Bill 1407. We feel this bill undermines the ability of our county has to regulate renewable energy (Tier 1 Sources) as we believe is in our best interests for our county.

Our Planning Commission and Department of Technical and Community Services has done extensive research and conducted numerous meetings over the past 5 years for the siting and regulation of renewable energy in Somerset County, including a solar acreage limit of 1,800 acres, of which approximately 1,300 acres are already utilized by utility-scale solar.

It must be noted that aside from our smaller land size, our county is also disproportionately affected by the increasing Critical Area development requirements and the Critical Area itself. Passing this bill would not only place an undue hardship on Somerset County by requiring the development and implementation of additional plans, but also defeat all of the work done by our county to regulate and control Tier 1 Sources as we see best for our county.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles Laird", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Charles Laird
President

Cc: Senator Carozza