

# COMMISSIONERS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

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## COMMISSIONERS

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COUNTY ATTORNEY  
KIRK G. SIMPKINS

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman  
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
2 West  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB1054- Local Government – Building Permits for Residential Solar Energy and Residential Energy Storage Systems – Required Platform and Inspection- **Letter of Opposition**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Commissioners for Somerset County, this is written to express our respectful, but strong opposition to Senate Bill 1054.

First and foremost, Somerset County has repeatedly expressed our concern with mandated solar and renewable energy requirements, especially over allowing local control and siting. This bill would create additional work on staff to learn and utilize a system outside of our existing permitting software along with adding additional requirements to customers applying for permitting.

Furthermore, we do not currently support online or credit-card payments for planning and zoning fees. Mandating this would create additional work and processing that we do not feel is necessary or warranted. Allowing permitting online should be left to individual jurisdiction control to implement as they see best fit for their county.

Respectfully, we ask that you please consider our serious concerns as you review and debate SB1054.

Sincerely,

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

Charles Laird  
President