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BILL NO.: **SB 1054**

TITLE: Local Government – Building Permits for Residential Solar Energy and Residential Energy Storage System – Required Platform and Inspections

SPONSOR: Senator Kramer

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

POSITION: **OPPOSES**

DATE: March 7, 2024

Baltimore County **OPPOSES** Senate Bill 1054 – Local Government – Building Permits for Residential Solar Energy and Residential Energy Storage Systems – Required Platform and Inspections. This legislation would require local jurisdictions to implement a web-based platform known as SolarAPP+ to track and approve residential building permits for certain residential solar energy projects.

Under SB 1054, SolarAPP+ would be required for residential solar systems, residential energy storage systems, and main electric panel upgrades. Beginning August 1, 2025, when applying for funding to the Maryland Energy Administration, the County would have to certify that it complies with the requirements of fully implementing SolarAPP+ into its processes.

It is unclear to Baltimore County how this change would benefit either the County or why one specific vendor would be pre-selected by the State for this process. Requiring local jurisdictions to utilize SolarAPP+ would add another layer to any permit review and approval that qualifies- meaning Baltimore County would be required to do twice the work to review and approve this kind of permit. This would cause a delay in the time required to issue a permit from the County.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **UNFAVORABLE** report on SB 1054 from the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.