



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

SUPPORT FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

SB 1054

Senator Kramer

Local Government – Building Permits for Residential Solar Energy and Residential Energy Storage Systems

POSITION

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Prince George's County Council supports HB 1265 with amendments. This bill mandates counties to adopt one specific tool, Solar APP+, for processing permit applications for installing solar on existing residential rooftops. Prince George's County Council believes that there should be some flexibility with this requirement.

We understand the intent of HB 1265 is to streamline the process for approving residential rooftop solar projects. This bill is based on the recommendation of the State Task Force to Study Solar Incentives. We are facing a climate crisis and anything that can be done to move away from fossil fuel must be supported.

However, there are risks associated with the installation of solar panels. The first is the stability of the rooftop itself to support solar and the second is the safety of the electrical work. Our code enforcement people are diligent in protecting the health and safety of our residents and the workers doing the installation.

Therefore, we are supporting the amendments put forward by the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) which would 1) preserve flexibility to ensure public safety; 2) only require the adoption of SolarAPP+ so long as funding remains for the transition and implementation and 3) refine the scenarios when counties would be required to adopt SolarAPP+.

For the reasons listed above, the Prince George's County Council supports this legislation with amendments.

Prepared by: Barnes International on behalf of Prince George's County Council.

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