

QUEEN ANNE'S CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 157 – CENTREVILLE, MD 21651

February 26, 2024

Dear Senate Education, Health and Environment Committee

On behalf of Queen Anne's Conservation Association, we send this letter urging an UN-FAVORABLE report on Senator Augustine's Senate Bill 685, authorizing the use of land developed with funds from Program Open Space to be used for generation of electricity from solar or wind sources.

Maryland's successful Program Open Space has been used to preserve land in a variety of ways, including protection of farmland, protection of wildlife habitat and other mechanisms of land preservation. Many of these properties have contractually obligated preservation easements on them, where landowners have taken advantage of various tax breaks. We urge the Senate to explore other options when considering land for solar or wind power, but Program Open Space lands should not be part of those considerations.

We urge an unfavorable report on SB-685

Sincerely,

Jay Falstad

Executive Director,

Queen Anne's Conservation Association

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"Conservation is a cause that has no end. There is no point at which we will say our work is finished."

-Rachel Carson