



## House Bill 1111

*Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Systems - Systems Located on or  
Over Water Retention Ponds, Quarries, or Brownfields*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**  
**WITH AMENDMENTS**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee

Date: April 3, 2025

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 1111 WITH AMENDMENTS** to preserve local autonomy and ensure counties can weigh fiscal impacts when considering tax incentives for solar energy projects.

Counties support the growth of renewable energy, including solar systems on brownfields and water surfaces. However, the bill's original language would mandate a property tax exemption and remove an important local revenue source — without offering any opportunity for counties to assess or shape the impact on their budgets.

MACo's amendments convert the mandatory exemption into a local option property tax credit. This structure allows counties to support solar development while maintaining the flexibility to balance community needs, infrastructure demands, and fiscal obligations.

Floating solar systems represent a new and evolving energy model. Local governments should retain the ability to evaluate these projects based on their local effects — rather than be forced into a one-size-fits-all tax exemption with no local input.

MACo thanks the sponsor for working toward a more balanced approach. The amended bill protects county revenues while allowing jurisdictions to encourage solar, where it makes sense.

Accordingly, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on HB 1111.