



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## House Bill 1111

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

Date: April 3, 2025

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position:

**FAVORABLE**

From:

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MD Staff Scientist

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1111, which adds solar generation systems installed on or over industrial water retention ponds and quarries to the list of systems eligible for the Small Solar Energy Generating System Incentive Program. It also allows municipalities to grant a property tax credit for these specific systems and those installed over brownfields.

The bill as amended ensures that only solar generation systems installed over industrial, non-navigable waterways such as stormwater ponds and quarries receive incentives and tax benefits. The amendments encourage environmentally responsible solar siting by narrowly defining appropriate locations on or over water. Though solar generation greatly improves upon fossil fuel-based energy generation, it is not without drawbacks, particularly when installed at the expense of green spaces.

In that vein, adding brownfield sites to those solar sites eligible for property tax credits encourages positive use of remediated areas. More solar generation on impervious and impacted areas means fewer forest and agricultural acres will be converted to meet energy generation targets.

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1111.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.