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**BILL NO.:**           **HB 165**

**TITLE:**             Solar Photovoltaic Recycling

**SPONSOR:**        Delegate Miller

**COMMITTEE:**     Economic Matters

**POSITION:**       **OPPOSE**

**DATE:**            February 13, 2020

Baltimore County **OPPOSES** House Bill 165 – Solar Photovoltaic Recycling. This bill would establish a solar photovoltaic recycling fee and establishes the Solar Photovoltaic Recycling Fund, and requires 20% of the first sale price of each renewable energy credit sold to be deposited into the fund.

Baltimore County is concerned that this bill will hinder its long-standing goal of encouraging residents to utilize solar energy. While the consumer is not being charged a fee in this bill, the County is concerned that installation companies will pass the costs of both the initial fee and the tax on a first REC sale onto the consumer. As a result, this legislation would discourage residents or local businesses who are considering installing solar panels by raising the costs of installation.

Furthermore, regulating and setting taxes and fees as we deem appropriate is important for Baltimore County to meet its unique fiscal needs. The need for revenue is carefully weighed with the need for sweeping environmental reform and this bill would strip the County's authority to make these essential decisions.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 165. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.