CHRIS WEST
Legislative District 42
Baltimore County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Vice Chair, Baltimore County
Senate Delegation

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 303
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3648 · 301-858-3648
800-492-7122 *Ext.* 3648
Chris.West@senate.state.md.us

District Office
1134 York Road, Suite 200
Lutherville -Timonium, MD 21093
410-823-7087

February 19, 2020

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
2 West Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

RE: SB 592 – State-Funded Construction and Major Renovation Projects – Solar Panels – Requirement

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to introduce Senate Bill 592 which will require new and renovated projects carried out by State and local governments to be built with solar panels on their roofs.

Maryland's current renewable energy goal is 28% from Tier 1 sources in 2020, including 6% from solar energy. Next year, the renewable energy goal is 30.8% from Tier 1 sources, including 7.5% from solar energy. In just ten years, in 2030, the renewable energy goal is 50%, with 14.5% from solar energy.

According to the Final Report concerning the Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard, produced by the Department of Natural Resources December of 2019, only 10-15% of Maryland's retired RECs currently come from in-state sources. The remaining RECs (85-90% of the RECs) are purchased from other states. In 2018, large hydro and utility scale and distributed renewable energy only made up about 11.5% of Maryland's energy. Again according to the Final Report, given existing solar capacity and anticipated future solar capacity and anticipated future solar capacity in Maryland, the State will not be able to meet the solar carve-out requirement between 2020 and 2029. 2025 will be the year with the biggest shortfall, 2,259 GWh. In 2026, the shortfall is expected to be 2,166 GWh and in 2027, the shortfall will yet be nearly 2,000 GWh.

Senate Bill 592 will apply to construction projects carried out by State and local governments that have a proposed roof expanse of at least 4,000 square feet and to major renovation projects carried out by State and local governments where the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, electrical, and plumbing systems are all to be replaced and where the roof expanse will be at least 4,000 square feet. These new and renovated structures must be built with the maximum number of solar panels on their roofs.

When discussing the potential barriers of this legislation cost does not arise as an issue. The cost of adding solar panels to new and renovated structures is estimated as less than 1% of total

project costs (0.7% to be exact). Overall there will be no effect on State capital spending. To the extent that the solar array reduces nonrenewable energy consumption in the buildings, the State should realize savings. Additionally, if the Built to Learn Act is enacted and Maryland and its counties spend $2.2 Billion on new school construction in the next few years, the energy produced by the solar panels during the summer, when the schools are not in session, will be streamed onto the grid, and the schools will derive income.

The passage of Senate Bill 592 will help to alleviate the anticipated shortfall in Maryland-generated solar energy. Our new schools and other new public buildings will become showplaces for Maryland's commitment to green energy and will be a source of pride to the communities in which these structures are located. Further, they will likely inspire private developers to follow suit by adding solar panels to the roofs of their new structures.

For these reasons I ask the committee to please vote favorably on Senate Bill 592.