



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 4, 2021

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB584 - Public Utilities – Net Energy Metering**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 584. This bill increases the maximum generation capacity of an electric generating system used by an eligible customer-generator for net metering to 5 megawatts. It also prohibits the Public Service Commission from prohibiting the construction or operation of multiple net metered solar generating facilities located on contiguous lots that are owned by a local government solely because the capacity of the combined net metering systems exceeds the 5-megawatt limit.

The primary issues with this bill is it increases the size of a solar project which in turn increases the amount of land needed to have a project that large. In addition, the bill opens county property that could be leased to farmer. Allowing several of these projects to circumvent the CPCN process would allow more county-owned farmland to be transitioned to solar panels. If language was added to allow the multiple solar projects to combine only on brownfields, then MDFB would not oppose that section of the bill.

MDFB Policy: We oppose any additional increases to the solar carve out in the RPS unless projects are two megawatts or smaller.

We encourage that brownfields, and urban areas be utilized to assist with the clean energy mandate in lieu of prime and productive farmland

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 584

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396