



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 584

DATE: February 2, 2021

SPONSOR: Delegate R. Watson

ASSIGNED TO: Economic Matters

CONTACT PERSON: Kathleen Boucher (kathleen.boucher@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support

Electricity – Net Energy Metering

Under current law, electric companies are required to allow net metering for renewable energy projects constructed by eligible customer-generators if the capacity of a project is limited to 2 megawatts (MW). This bill increases the 2 MW cap on project capacity to 5 MW and provides that the Public Service Commission (PSC) may not prohibit the construction of multiple net metered solar energy 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 MW cap.

Montgomery County uses net metering to enhance the financial feasibility of all solar energy projects installed on County-owned land and buildings (e.g., libraries, community centers, parking lots, warehouses). To date, the County has installed 7.06 MW of solar energy at 16 sites that generate a total of 10,500,000 kilowatt hours (KwH) each year. The County has a development pipeline of solar energy projects that have been approved or are in design that would add 10 MW of installed capacity and is exploring opportunities for another 10 MW of installed capacity in the next five years.

Although some County-owned property, such as the Oaks Landfill, could accommodate larger capacity projects, these projects are not financially viable without net metering. Increasing the project capacity cap to 5 MW and allowing aggregation of projects on contiguous lots would significantly enhance the possibility of increasing the amount of solar energy that can be generated on County-owned property.

Montgomery County respectfully requests that the Economic Matters Committee give this bill a favorable report.