



House Bill 584

Public Utilities – Net Energy Metering

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Economic Matters Committee

Date: February 4, 2021

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties **SUPPORTS** HB 584 as the bill would give counties greater flexibility to undertake and site net metering projects.

HB 584 increases the maximum generating capacity of a net metering electrical generating project from 2 megawatts to 5 megawatts. If the project is located on separate contiguous lots that are owned by a local government, there is no limit. Net metering and customer-generator solar projects help create a more robust and decentralized energy grid. These projects can often be sited away from prime agricultural areas on otherwise underutilized land such as a wastewater treatment plant or a landfill. Net metering is often essential to the financial viability of projects, and increasing the capacity would allow counties to pursue larger projects and therefore more clean energy for their residents, subject to local zoning approval.

HB 584 provides reasonable flexibility for counties to undertake useful and needed net metering solar projects. Accordingly, MACo requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 584.