

**Gerry L. Brewster**  
**Chairman of the Board – The Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society, Inc.**  
**2200 York Road, Lutherville-Timonium MD, 21093**  
**Testifying in Support of HB0469**

**Testimony Before the House Health and Government Operations Committee**  
**Weds., Feb. 17, 2021, 1:30 PM regarding Delegate Forbes' HB469 (SB330) Regarding Solar Panel Installation**

- Thank Delegate Forbes, Chair Pendergrass, and Health and Government Operations Committee
- I am GB, speaking on behalf of YOUR MSF&AS, volunteer-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit
- 2 million annual visitors in support of MD's #1 industry – Agriculture
- 141 years, Agriculture + environmental stewardship not always cooperated
- Times have changed
- Not just “right” but also “economic sense”
- 4-acre, 160,000 square foot Cow Palace – flat roof
- Sheep, Swine, and Goat Barn – constructed by Army Corps of Engineers WWII, also flat roof
- Investigated solar options – purchase, lease, other
- Local MD company, SolarGaines
- Zero cost to MSF
- Employed dozens of people for eight-month installation – 10,000 man-hours
  - During the pandemic, assisting MD economic recovery
- MSF solar installation includes:
  - 2.6-megawatt solar panel system with output of 2.9 megawatts
  - 7,000 modules, 380 watts each
  - Carbon offset – 1,885 tons per year, equivalent to:
    - 10,907 new trees planted per year
    - 3,272,000 miles not driven per year
    - 1,449 days running Ravens Stadium per year
  - Estimated to provide 85% of the State Fair's electricity for our 106-acre campus and 42 buildings
  - New electricity rate guaranteed substantially below BGE market rate
  - Estimated to save MSF \$1.2 million over 15-year term
  - Weather station, temp, irradiance, humidity, precipitation, pressure, and wind
  - Educational kiosk for MSF 2 million annual visitors – reduce carbon footprint – adoption of solar
  - Electric car charging station
  - Annual educational solar seminar for public
- Savings tremendously important future financial wellbeing MSF
- Enables MSF: Combat Covid, Educate kids about Ag, open space, and environmental stewardship
- Success of solar operational in 2020
- Inspired additional environmental stewardship at MSF:
  - Stormwater Management underway -- \$50G NFWS
  - 65 trees – donated
  - 3-inch spray foam insulation paid for itself, save fuel cost, three years
  - New high-efficiency HVAC
  - New LED lighting
  - Restaurant composting
  - Earth Day cleanup – local schools
  - And more
- Thank committee, Delegate Forbes, and America's companies and hard workers for making this technology available, installing, and operating
- Better environmental stewards – no cost, saving \$1.2 million over 15 years