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BILL NO.: Senate Bill 418

TITLE: Energy Generation, Transmission, and Storage Projects –
Required Community Benefit Agreement and Labor Standards

SPONSOR: Senator Feldman

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 15, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 418 – Energy Generation, Transmission, and Storage Projects – Required Community Benefit Agreement and Labor Standards. This legislation would require covered project developers to enter into a community benefit agreement with a local community organization, pay a prevailing wage for labor on these projects and ensure that all those working on covered projects will be treated in accordance with best practices.

The rapid growth in the sustainable energy industry has driven an urgent need for the production of a significant amount of new supporting infrastructure throughout the State. New demands for a workforce to construct and stand up these projects must be met for the State to rapidly meet industry needs. It is a priority for the County that all those working on emerging energy projects housed locally and throughout the State are protected by strict labor standards.

This legislation will mandate fair and equitable labor standards by requiring that those working on covered projects from a renewable Tier 1 source, renewable Tier 2 source or nuclear energy are protected under community benefit agreements. SB 418 also requires the developers of these projects pay no less than a prevailing wage, a standard that Baltimore County sets for work within its jurisdiction. These provisions will ensure that all labor on covered projects in the State is appropriately compensated and valued.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 418. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.