



TO: Members, House Ways & Means Committee
FROM: Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA
SUBJECT: HB0076 (SB0264) - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Exemption From Energy and Property Taxes
DATE: January 19, 2021

MEA Position: Letter of Information

This bill as written is a mandate on local government, and permissible language would likely assist local governments in their future planning processes.

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) strongly supports clean and renewable energy with its bevy of programs, including significant support of solar. MEA offers grants for rooftop solar, community solar, including low-to-moderate income installations, and parking lot solar canopies with integrated electric vehicle supply equipment.

A bill similar to HB 76 was introduced in the 2021 legislative session. That bill was permissive in nature, and did not thrust a mandate on local governments. Admittedly, that piece of legislation was broader in its application; not limiting the impact to solar generating stations that serve at least 50% low-to-moderate income subscribers. MEA also notes that HB 76 further limits its impacts to solar installations that are on rooftops, brownfields, or that are parking facility canopies.

Even with the constraints of the legislation as written, local governments may be negatively impacted, and impacted in perpetuity. MEA urges the committee to consider the proceeding prior to issuing its report.