



MARYLAND
HORSE
COUNCIL

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One Common Bond: The Horse
One Common Voice: The Horse Council

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on SB 103

Income Tax – Maryland Residential Solar Investment Tax Credit – **FAVORABLE**

The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based trade association that represents the state-wide horse industry in Maryland. Our members include horse farms; horse related businesses; equestrian competitors; trainers; individual enthusiasts; equine-assisted therapy programs; and breed, interest, and discipline associations. We represent over 30,000 Marylanders who make their living with horses, or who just own and love them.

MHC supports SB 103 because Maryland is obliged by law to generate 14.5% of its electricity from solar power by 2030. See MD Code, Pub. Util. § 7-703. The latest data show that Maryland currently generates about 5% only of its electricity from solar power, and that residential use accounts for almost a third of Maryland's energy consumption. As a result, Maryland must increase significantly the amount of energy generated by residential solar panels to meet its renewable energy obligations.

Residences on horse farms are in more rural areas that are often in areas prone to power outages due to aging infrastructure as well as weather-related service interruptions. In addition, many horse properties are on wells, which do not operate when the power goes out. Many horse farms use diesel generators to power their wells so that they can water their horses. Increasing the incentives for horse owners to install solar panels will simultaneously reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by diesel generators and help the state reach its renewable energy obligations. We urge the committee to give SB 103 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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