



CAROLINE COUNTY
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CAROLINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

JAMES TRAVIS BREEDING, PRESIDENT
LARRY C. PORTER, VICE PRESIDENT
NORMAN FRANKLIN BARTZ, III., COMMISSIONER
109 Market Street, Room 123
Denton, Maryland 21629

House Bill 1099

Electricity - Solar Energy Generating Stations - Fire Suppression

Position: **SUPPORT w/ Amendments**

Date: February 23, 2023

To: Economic Matters Committee

The Caroline County Commissioners **SUPPORT** HB 1099 – Electricity – Solar Energy Generating Stations – Fire Suppression with amendments.

The Caroline County Commissioners believe that the Public Service Commission should not have the right to preempt any battery energy storage projects within the State of Maryland, especially those that do not provide self-suppressing fire extinguishment capabilities. There is a significant risk of harm and possible death related to Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) fires; like the event that occurred in Surprise, Arizona in April of 2019.

The Caroline County Commissioners believe that safety measures should be taken and enforced to protect the safety and wellbeing of our First Responders and citizens of this State. With this, the Caroline County Commissioners respectfully request a favorable report on HB1099, with an amendment removing subsection 3, on page 3 (lines 13-15).

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding
President
Caroline County Commissioners