



Hon. C.T. Wilson, Chairman
House Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB1188 – **Position: Support**

Dear Chairman Wilson:

This letter is written on behalf of Summit Ridge Energy (“SRE”) in strong support of House Bill 1188. SRE is the largest owner-operator of community solar assets in the country. Since its inception in 2017, SRE's project finance team has raised over \$1 billion in capital across multiple US solar markets, enabling the construction of 200 megawatts in just 4 years.

House Bill 1188 codifies long standing precedent from the Public Service Commission that allows the co-location of multiple solar projects on the same parcel of land totaling more than 2 megawatts in size, while retaining complete local siting authority over those projects. In our experience, projects using this structure are primarily aggregate net metered facilities serving county governments and community solar facilities on preferred sites such as brownfields, rooftops, and parking lots. Because a CPCN is not required, these projects are subject to all local requirements, including zoning codes.

This legislation is necessary to provide the assurance developers need to develop these beneficial projects. Recently, uncertainty has arisen at the Public Service Commission about existing precedent, including for constructed projects where developers have invested millions of dollars in reasonable reliance on existing requirements. This market uncertainty will harm the State’s climate change and renewable energy goals if not corrected. House Bill 1188 will allow these important co-located projects to move forward if – and only if – they are approved by local governments through their standard review procedures.

For these reasons, SRE respectfully requests that you give House Bill 1188 a **Favorable Report.**

Very truly yours,

Leslie Elder, VP of Political and Regulatory Affairs
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