



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 14, 2023

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: Senate Bill 357, *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Solar Energy – Compliance Fees*
Support

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 357, *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Solar Energy – Compliance Fee*, which increases compliance fees starting in 2025 for utilities that fail to meet solar energy requirements specified under Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

We are in a climate emergency. Shifting our energy sources to clean, renewable resources like solar is critically important to achieving state and local climate goals, including our goal here in Montgomery County to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. Domestic resources like solar and wind can play critical roles in powering our economy, creating jobs in Maryland, and improving public health.

The RPS was established to encourage the development of clean, renewable sources of electricity generation. It requires utilities to procure certain minimum percentages of the electricity they provide to Maryland customers from renewable energy resources, and further specifies minimum percentages that must be procured specifically from solar resources. The RPS imposes compliance fees on electric utilities that fail to meet these solar obligations to help incentivize their compliance. Those fees decline over time under current law.

This bill will prevent further reductions in the compliance fees imposed on utilities that fall short of their solar obligations under the RPS, starting in 2025. These fees are an important tool to encourage utilities to meet their obligations.

I respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee give this bill a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee