Danielle Hornberger County Executive

Steven Overbay Acting Director of Administration

Office: 410.996.5202 Email: dhornberger@ccgov.org



Jackie Gregory Council President

> Robert Meffley Vice President

Office: 410.996.5201 Email: council@ccgov.org

CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Cecil County Administration Building 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD 21921

February 15, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve The Honorable Dana Stein Environment and Transportation Committee Room 251 House Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1100 - Battery Storage and Solar Arrays Training Grant Program and Fund - Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee.

The County Council and the County Executive of Cecil County unanimously support HB 1100 Battery Storage and Solar Arrays Training Grant Program and Fund. The hearing on this legislation is scheduled on March 8, 2023.

It is our understanding that this legislation will establish the Battery Storage and Solar Arrays Safety Training Grant Program in the Maryland Energy Administration to provide grants to local governments to train local fire departments on certain safety aspects associated with lithium-ion battery storage systems installed with solar arrays; requiring the Administration, in consultation with certain entities, to establish certain training and emergency response standards for local governments relating to lithium-ion battery storage systems and solar arrays and so forth.

Cecil County has growing concerns on the safety of battery storage and solar arrays that are being erected in our County and statewide. This bill will ensure that our local emergency management team and firefighters are prepared to address this ever growing danger with battery storage and solar arrays.

The County Executive and County Council of Cecil County respectfully requests that the Environment and Transportation Committee send a favorable report on HB 1100.

Sincerely,

Danielle Hornberger County Executive

President of County Council

www.ccgov.org