



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 1100

Battery Storage and Solar Arrays Safety Training Grant Program and Fund

Position: **SUPPORT**

Date: March 8, 2023

To: Environment and Transportation

The Caroline County Commissioners **SUPPORT** HB 1100 – Battery Storage and Solar Arrays Safety Training Grant Program and Fund.

The Caroline County Commissioners are extremely concerned with the safety of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). These systems can prove fatal due to potential explosions caused by thermal runaway. When this occurs, toxic chemicals are released into the air that are extremely hazardous to first responders and the citizens within the plume area. In addition to the human aspect, the runoff that occurs from attempting to extinguish these systems are littered with toxic chemicals that are detrimental to the environment, animals, people, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.

Del. Ghrist and Sen. Mautz have sponsored HB1046/SB636 that relates very closely to the above-mentioned safety concerns. As you can see, the Caroline County Commissioners have great concern regarding the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) safety. With this, the Caroline County Commissioners respectfully request a favorable report on HB1100.

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding
President
Caroline County Commissioners