

**HB 1100-23, Before the Maryland House ENT Committee on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, In-Favor,
Chair Barve and ENT Committee Members,**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 1100-23.

I am Ron Weiss, resident of Fort Washington and President of the Indian Head Highway Area Action Council (IHHAAC).

I testify with the background as an Electrical Engineer and from attending numerous Community Advisory Group (CAG) meetings with Pepco regarding the National Harbor Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) that Pepco plans to locate in the South Lawn residential neighborhood.

The CAG has had expert testimony from Ofodike A. Ezekoye, Ph.D., P.E., on the risks of lithium-ion BESS and we have testimony from Prince George's Fire/EMS Battalion Chief Christian Wargo that our Fire Department is scrambling to learn how to fight lithium-ion battery fires. Their testimony is not comforting to the community of people living with an impending threat to our lives and well-being.

We have also found that Maryland and local regulations related to BESS technology and safety are lacking or non-existent. We have also found that the Public Safety Commission passes the buck to local jurisdictions for BESS safety.

New York State and New York City appear to lead the nation on BESS regulations and I recommend that Maryland agencies emulate those jurisdictions in regulating BESS.

Batteries are integral to Maryland's use of solar energy, which I endorse, but the public should not be put at risk by our move to green energy.

Thank you.

Ronald Weiss

12511 Haxall Ct. Fort Washington, MD 20744

301-292-8112