



TESTIMONY FOR HB0489

Public Service Commission – Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity – Local Permits

Bill Sponsor: Senator Brooks

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0489 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

This bill seeks to remove the confusion between the Public Service Commission's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process and the county or municipality process of providing technical permits (site plan approval, stormwater management plan approval, building permits, etc.) prior to the start of construction on a solar project. It authorizes a county or municipal corporation to process, within a reasonable time, any local permit required under a CPCN. This will help move solar projects along without procedural delays.

Whether localities are in favor of solar projects or not, those projects are required in order to meet the state's greenhouse gas reduction targets and should be prioritized and allowed to proceed unhindered as much as possible.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.