



Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Members, House Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Paul Pinsky - Director, MEA
SUBJECT: HB 692 - Public Service Commission – Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity – Local Permits
DATE: February 16, 2023

MEA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) supports the Sponsor’s efforts to ensure counties and municipalities work diligently to support the development of clean energy generation in the State.

The Public Service Commission has siting authority for energy generation assets exceeding two (2) megawatts in capacity. This authority is expressed through the granting of a certificate of public convenience and necessity, or “CPCN”. However, the local jurisdiction still maintains permitting authority.

This bill will help ensure that the permitting process is conducted within a timeframe that will not unnecessarily delay the development of new, clean and renewable energy generation in Maryland.

However, **MEA offers an amendment below**, to further clarify the need for timely processing of permit applications. MEA would replace the uncertain term of “a reasonable time” with a certain term of six (6) months.

For the foregoing reasons, MEA urges the committee to issue a **favorable report as amended**.

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, in lines 4 and 13, in each instance, strike “**A REASONABLE TIME**”, and substitute “**SIX (6) MONTHS**”.