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BILL NO.: **SB 416**

TITLE: **Renewable Energy – Customer-Sited Solar Program**

SPONSOR: **Senator Lewis Young**

COMMITTEE: **Education, Energy, and the Environment**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **February 8, 2024**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 416 – Renewable Energy – Customer-Sited Solar Program. This legislation establishes a customer-sited solar program within the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) for providing grants to eligible customer generators for solar energy-generating systems. The purpose of the program is to increase deployment of customer-sited solar energy systems.

This legislation will provide incentives for those with low-to-moderate incomes to install and utilize solar-collecting systems, which is a goal Baltimore County supports through the County’s participation in the EPA Solar for All grant program. These incentives include technical and educational resources to residential-serving solar projects benefitting low-income and disadvantaged communities and project deployment assistance such as workforce development. SB 416 would contribute to Baltimore County’s many solar goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants, aiding private capital in deploying pollution-reducing projects, and enabling working families to overcome barriers to use and benefit from solar technology.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 416. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.