



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 27, 2024

Committee: Senate Education, Energy and the Environment

Bill: SB 685 – Program Open Space – Use of Property – Renewable Energy and Storage

Position: Unfavorable

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes Senate Bill 685 as introduced, which would allow state and local Program Open Space land to be used for renewable energy projects.

The League is concerned that allowing local lands that have been acquired to preserve green spaces and parks or playgrounds to be used energy generation or storage is counter to the program's intent. Furthermore, with the PSC having full siting authority for 2mw projects and greater, there is a concern that this could be used to overrule local plans for specific parcels of land.

For these reasons the League respectfully requests that this committee provide Senate Bill 685 with an unfavorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa Kuhns
Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.
Bill Jorch
Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer
Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs
Director, Public Policy & Research
Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs