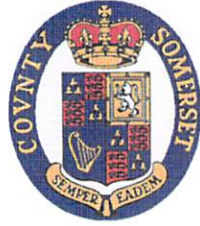


## COMMISSIONERS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

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PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND 21853  
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### COMMISSIONERS

CHARLES LAIRD, PRESIDENT  
RANDY LAIRD, VICE-PRESIDENT  
CRAIG N. MATHIES, SR.  
ELDON WILLING  
DARRYL K. WEBSTER



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
RALPH D. TAYLOR

DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
ERNEST J. LEATHERBURY, JR.

COUNTY ATTORNEY  
KIRK G. SIMPKINS

March 1, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB1265- Local Government – Building Permits for Residential Solar Energy and Residential Energy Storage Systems – Required Platform and Inspection- **Letter of Opposition**

Dear Chairman Korman and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Commissioners for Somerset County, this is written to express our respectful, but strong opposition to House Bill 1265.

First and foremost, Somerset County has repeatedly expressed our concern with mandated solar and renewable energy requirements, especially over allowing local control and siting. This bill would create additional work on staff to learn and utilize a system outside of our existing permitting software along with adding additional requirements to customers applying for permitting.

Furthermore, we do not currently support online or credit-card payments for planning and zoning fees. Mandating this would create additional work and processing that we do not feel is necessary or warranted. Allowing permitting online should be left to individual jurisdiction control to implement as they see best fit for their county.

Respectfully, we ask that you please consider our serious concerns as you review and debate HB1265.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles Laird', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Charles Laird  
President