

Testimony Opposing HB2036/SB931

My name is Annette Fleishell. I live in a pre-civil war farmhouse on a 50 acre farm on Fannie Dorsey Road. It is a quiet 2 acre road in a Carroll County agricultural zone. The State of Maryland, using the Public Services Commission wants to construct not one, but two Community Solar projects, .6 miles apart from each other.

I am adamantly opposed to the placement of solar energy facilities on our treasured agricultural land in Carroll County. Solar panels belong in industrial or commercial zones, NOT anywhere near residential homes, and NOT on prime farmland.

Carroll County is no stranger to the energetic and aggressive attempts of Big Solar Energy Companies, to construct "solar farms" on our cherished and valuable agricultural land. Carroll's citizens and residents fought the placement of Community Solar Energy for over two grueling years. On July 13,2023 at a public hearing, the Carroll County Commissioners enacted Ordinance No.2023-04, which clearly states "Community solar energy generating systems (CSEGS), in agricultural zones", is hereby repealed and deleted in its entirety."

The residents of Carroll County have spoken clearly and loudly, It was unanimous across all Carroll County communities, KEEP SOLAR OFF OUR FARMLAND!

Currently the MD Public Services Commission has proposed 8 (eight) submissions for "Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)" from energy companies. One of those CPCN applications has been approved as of 1/31/25.

None of the PSC proposed solar fields are farmed by the landowners. Local farmers do the planting and harvesting of the crops on them. These landowners do not care about the land and preserving its' integrity, only the money it realizes. Using prime agland for solar will hurt our farmers, their families and livelihood.

Carroll County has a proud heritage and tradition in agriculture. We will not allow Community Solar to destroy this heritage. If allowed in one project, it will effectively chip away our agland, 20 acres at a time.

Carroll County honors its' commitment to Farmland Preservation since 1970, with 80,000 acres preserved; and a goal of 100,00 acres. The county is #1 in MD for numbers of acres preserved, and #5 in the nation. 50% of Carroll County land mass is in agriculture, containing approximately 708 farms.

Carroll County is serious about protecting its' agricultural land. Solar has been proven to damage and destroy prime farmland. It will destroy the land for future generations.

The State of Maryland, using The Public Service Commission (PSC), SHOULD NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO SUPERCEDE CARROLL COUNTY LAW!!!

Carroll County residents and Commissioners will continue making our voices heard! Do not underestimate Carroll County's farming communities. WE WILL NOT exchange our beautiful farmland for solar energy.

Thank you for your attention.

Annette Fleishell

1401 Fannie Dorsey Road

Sykesville, MD 21784

fleishellfarm@aol.com