

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
House Economic Matters Committee

Re: SB 0931, HB 1036 Oppose

Dear Senators and Delegates,

I am writing to oppose the Renewable Energy Certainty Act. Our family farm, comprised of the 5th, 6th and 7th generations, is located in Kent County where we produce field crops, livestock and vegetables. Over the years we have worked hard to build our farm business into a successful diversified operation sustaining 7 families. We have also put much of the land we own into preservation programs in order to assure there will be agricultural land here in perpetuity.

I have participated in the development of the last three Comprehensive Plans in Kent County, knowing firsthand what the citizens envisioned for our future. I worked on the last rewrite of the Land Use Ordinance, and I have served on the Planning Commission where we implemented and interpreted those documents. Kent's vision is to keep agriculture #1, preserve our historic past, and to allow growth and development in areas served by water and sewer.

Now come SB0931 and HB1036, which will allow solar developers and the Public Service Commission to take a sledge hammer to any and all local zoning regarding the siting of solar arrays. It seems "they" know better than the locals as to what is best for their county. All of those wide open, flat fields of the Eastern Shore are so tempting to a solar developer. Who cares if a farmer will lose a few hundred acres, but it won't stop with one farm! Those fertile fields are the life blood of the farmers: good soil = good crops = good income. The loss of thousands of acres will have a devastating impact on agriculture, not to mention local economies.

Preemption of local zoning as proposed by these two bills is unfair and unacceptable, and I strongly urge an unfavorable recommendation.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Langenfelder
Grand View Farm LLC
Kennedyville, MD 21645