

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair  
Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair  
Members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment  
Committee & House Economics Matters Committee

RE: SB0931/HB1036

Position: **OPPOSED**

Dear Senators and Delegates,

My name is Kristen Nickerson. I am a sixth-generation farmer in Kent County where we raise grain, vegetables and livestock. Every day I tend to the land and the livestock with the utmost care, in hopes that I leave it to my children in better condition than when I started. Our farm, like so many others, is not just a piece of property—it's our home, our livelihood, and our legacy. It provides food for our community and beyond, it provides incomes for multiple families, it provides satisfaction of a good day's work and it provides hope for our future generations to continue on. The passage of SB0931/HB1036 would be devastating to my family farming business and agriculture in Maryland as a whole.

County and local governments have implemented zoning and land use ordinances that reflect what their tax paying residents desire. Often the residents themselves are involved in the writing of such documents so it truly represents what the local residents want. The Renewable Energy Certainty Act will preempt all county and local jurisdictions and allow the PSC and Solar developers to completely upend the plans that are in place to site sprawling, unsightly and unreliable solar panels all over the once productive farmland of Maryland.

The Renewable Energy Certainty Act has only one thing certain about it - and that is it will cripple the #1 industry in the state of Maryland. This unparalleled government overreach shows complete disregard to the very people that provide food security for the residents of this state, country and world.

I strongly urge you to give SB0931/HB1036 an Unfavorable recommendation.

Kristen Nickerson