

I am writing to provide written **Unfavorable** testimony to HB-1036.

Right now, Maryland House and Senate leaders are under pressure from Senate President Bill Ferguson (a solar company insider and legal counsel for CI Renewables), to lay out a campaign to replace the State's largest economic sector — agriculture — with a new industry: solar power. The collateral damage to Maryland's counties, small-town economies, its rural communities, and most importantly, its farming lands, will be enormous.

This Bill will set our State's enormous Conservation history and investment into a tail spin. And become your Legacy if approved as written.

SB-0931 is simply a bill aimed at bringing solar sprawl to Maryland's agricultural lands. As written, "solar" bills like SB-0931 are part of a Wall Street-backed scheme to give solar developers a free pass to bulldoze forests, take over farmland, and nullify local decision making. Make no mistake: These greenwashing solar companies are not about helping the environment, they are land speculators out for profit and control. This Bill makes an end run on the Public Trust to the benefit of these private solar developers.

The Maryland Energy Crisis is a result of these same poorly planned and idealistic efforts. This Crisis requires the use of existing/readily available technology that produces more economical and environmentally friendly power on a fraction of the acreage required by Utility Grade Solar dependent upon PSC eminent Domain.

The State merely needs to take off the shackles of wind and solar.

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