



## SPARKS-GLENCOE COMMUNITY PLANNING COUNCIL

February 26, 2025

Angelo Otterbein  
President  
Sparks-Glencoe Community Planning Council  
PO Box 937  
Sparks, MD 21152

**Re: HB1036: Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act)**

The Sparks Glencoe Community Planning Council (SGCPC) is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the rural character of northern Baltimore County by encouraging land preservation, and by protecting the reservoir watershed system that lies within the organization's boundaries. Through newsletters, public meetings, and hearings, the SGCPC has over 400 members and seeks to inform and educate both the public and the government about the necessity of:

- conserving farmland and green infrastructure,
- preserving clean drinking water in our reservoirs,
- and keeping growth in accord with the level of public services available in the area.

**We strongly oppose HB1036: Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act)**, as it allows the Public Service Commission (PSC) to pre-empt local governments' laws and regulations when approving construction of solar and energy storage device installations. Counties would not be able to prohibit the construction or operation of solar installations or energy storage devices and could not deny development plans. Solar installations would be exempt from personal and real property taxes. *Aside from the significant problem of using prime and productive farmland for the wrong purpose, it sets a terrible precedent.*

We appreciate you taking our input into consideration.

Sincerely,

Angelo Otterbein  
President  
Sparks-Glencoe Community Planning Council