

COMMISSIONERS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

11916 SOMERSET AVENUE, ROOM 111
PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND 21853
TELEPHONE 410-651-0320, FAX 410-651-0366

COMMISSIONERS
CHARLES LAIRD, PRESIDENT
RANDY LAIRD, VICE-PRESIDENT
CRAIG N. MATHIES, SR.
ELDON WILLING
DARRYL K. WEBSTER



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
RALPH D. TAYLOR
DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
ERNEST J. LEATHERBURY, JR.
COUNTY ATTORNEY
KIRK G. SIMPKINS

February 26, 2025

Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
230/231 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Opposing HB1036 – Public Utilities – Generating Stations – Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act)

Dear Chairman Wilson,

I am writing you as the President of the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County regarding Maryland House Bill 1036 to express our strong opposition to this bill. Effectively, this bill undermines the ability of our county has to regulate renewable energy as we believe is in our best interests for our county.

Our Planning Commission and Department of Technical and Community Services has done extensive research and conducted numerous meetings over the past 5 years for the siting and regulation of renewable energy in Somerset County, including a solar acreage limit of 1,800 acres, of which approximately 1,300 acres are already utilized by solar energy facilities.

It must be noted that aside from our smaller land size, our county is also disproportionately affected by the increasing Critical Area development requirements and the Critical Area itself. Passing this bill would not only place an undue and unfair hardship on Somerset County as a rural county, but also defeat all of the work done by our county to regulate and control renewable energy as we see best for our county.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Charles Laird'.

Charles Laird, President
Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County

Cc: Delegate Otto