



## House Bill 739

### *Public Utilities – Solar Energy Generating Stations – Local Approval*

Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Economic Matters Committee

Date: March 4, 2025

From: Chip Bertino, Worcester County Commissioner

I am Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino and I am writing to support House Bill 739, which would provide local jurisdictions with a much-needed opportunity to weigh in on solar siting.

Local governments are best suited to determine land use policy in their communities. While other legislation we've seen this year attempts to further state preemption when it comes to solar, this bill returns oversight to where it belongs—the local jurisdiction. In order to be effective, solar projects need to be developed efficiently. Municipal and county officials are best suited to determine where these projects will be of the most benefit. Local input can ensure renewable energy goals are not achieved at the expense of livability, safety, or housing needs.

I urge you to provide a favorable report to this commonsense bill. Thank you for your time, your consideration and your service.