



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education

## House Bill 1111

### Public Utilities – Solar Energy Generating Systems – Floating Systems and Systems Located on Brownfields

Date: February 21, 2025  
To: House Economic Matters Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE W/ AMENDMENT**  
From: Gussie Maguire,  
MD Staff Scientist

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENT** HB 1111, which exempts nonresidential solar systems on brownfields from valuation and property tax. The bill also adds floating systems to the list of systems eligible for the Small Solar Energy Generating System Incentive Program and exempts them from valuation and property tax.

In principle, floating solar arrays can provide an alternative to installations on formerly forested or productive agricultural land. However, shade provided by the floating structures can be detrimental to underwater vegetation<sup>1</sup>, the loss of which in turn lowers dissolved oxygen in the surrounding water. Amending the bill to ensure that only floating systems installed over artificial, non-navigable waterways such as stormwater ponds and constructed reservoirs receive incentives and tax benefits would encourage environmentally responsible siting.

In that vein, adding brownfield sites to those solar sites exempt from valuation and property tax encourages positive use of remediated areas. More solar generation on impervious and impacted areas means fewer forest and agricultural acres will be converted to meet energy generation targets.

**CBF supports the spirit of HB 1111 and suggests minor clarifications to improve the bill. For those reasons we urge the Committee's FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT report on HB 1111.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://strathprints.strath.ac.uk/89330/1/Potential-environmental-impacts-of-floating-solar-photovoltaic-systems.pdf>

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