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MAYOR

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**HB1036**

February 28, 2025

**TO:** Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 1036 - Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act)

**POSITION: Support With Amendments**

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports with amendments** House Bill (HB) 1036.

HB1036 aims to change what the Public Service Commission must consider before acting on a certificate of public convenience and necessity. It sets requirements for building certain solar energy stations, prevents local laws from blocking site plans, urges local governments to expedite plan reviews, and allows for community solar enrollment programs. It also addresses rooftop solar systems and mandates a study on partnerships related to generating stations.

The BCA supports the intent of this bill. In support of the Baltimore City Fire Department and the City's Office of Emergency Management, we respectfully request an amendment to allow local jurisdictions to have the ability to evaluate plans for compliance with various codes.

The Site Plan and Construction Plans for a new Solar Generating Station shall be submitted to the Local Jurisdiction's Office of Emergency Management for Emergency Response Planning as well as to the applicable **Plans Review and Permitting Office** for evaluation of compliance with various codes such as NFPA 70 (National Electrical Code)<sup>i</sup>; International Fire Code, Chapter 12 (Energy Systems) and NFPA 850, Chapter 14 (Fire Protection for Electric Generation Plants – Solar Generation).

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable with amendments** report on HB1036.

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<sup>i</sup> The National Electrical Code, or NFPA 70, is a regionally adoptable standard for the safe installation of electrical wiring and equipment in the United States, and it part of the National Fire Code series published by the National Fire Protection Association. <https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/nfpa-70-standard-development/70>