

This email is being sent to you because of Senate Bill 931 and House Bill 1036, they are both very important to any and all counties in the State of Maryland.

They are both BAD bills, there are no circumstances in which the State of Maryland including the Public Service Commission should be able to make local County decisions without the County's input in reference to placement of renewable energy projects.

I am a Queen Anne's County citizen and fourth generation farmer along with my son and grandson being the fifth and sixth generation. We grow corn and soybeans and have seven (7) poultry houses. We grow one (1) million chickens per year.

The farmland in Queen Anne's County is critical to the production of grain to feed the poultry industry which in turn feeds the one million plus citizens in Montgomery County plus the other 5.1 million Marylanders.

Keeping our farmland as agricultural land is key to the success of the poultry industry on the Del Mar Va (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia) it takes 19 pounds of feed to feed one chicken in its 60-day life cycle. There are 212 poultry houses located Queen Anne's County which equals to 6,360,000 birds on the ground at one time. It takes 71,232,000 pounds of feed to feed the 6 + million chickens.

Queen Anne's County has been proactive in their renewable energy project efforts by strategically placing solar panels on farmland that is not of statewide importance, or the project is a smaller scale project so the impact on the overall farm operation is minimal. The placement of those solar projects is all based on reviews of Queen Anne's County Planning Commission, Board of Appeals and County Commissioners, all of which work with local landowners to fulfill everyone's needs.

Taking the decision making out of the County's hands and knowing what is best for each county and giving it to State officials that know little about how each County is dangerous and irrational. As Montgomery County is drastically different than Queen Anne's County, a sweeping decision as far as renewable energy project placement is irresponsible.

The Del Mar Va is a corn and soybean deficit area to feed the poultry industry and there is a large amount of corn and soybeans imported every day from the west in order to feed the chickens. We cannot afford to take ANY productive farmland out of grain production.

Let each County decide how they want and where they want renewable energy projects to be placed. There is a large inventory of State owned properties that are currently vacant, start with those properties and place the renewable energy projects there before touching one acre of Maryland's most valuable resource, FARMLAND.

Respectfully

Donna K. Landis-Smith