



Maryland Farm Bureau

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March 6, 2025

To: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: Support – SB478 – Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Stations - Local Approval

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in support of SB478 Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Stations - Local Approval. This proposed legislation would prohibit the Public Service Commission from approving a certificate of public convenience and necessity for a solar energy generating station unless the Commission receives written approval for the construction of the generating station from each county or municipal corporation where the generating station is proposed to be located.

Maryland Farm Bureau policy is supportive of local control, “We urge local control of any growth management programs and zoning regulations within our state.” It is essential to manage the need for renewable energy as a part of the energy mix in Maryland, with preserving as much prime and productive soil as possible. Prime and productive soil is a resource that we cannot replace, and without this soil we do not have farmland. SB478 looks to find a needed balance between solar projects and preservation of prime and productive soils.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', with a horizontal line above it.

Tyler Hough

Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough, though@marylandfb.org, with any questions