



Maryland

Energy Administration

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: MEA

SUBJECT: SB 640 - Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Stations - Eminent Domain

DATE: March 6, 2025

MEA Position: UNFAVORABLE

This bill would prohibit the use of eminent domain for the construction of solar energy generating stations, undermining Maryland's clean energy goals and slowing down the development of renewable infrastructure critical to achieving a sustainable future.

Maryland has set ambitious targets for clean energy generation, which prioritizes expanding the state's solar capacity. Restricting eminent domain for solar projects while allowing it for traditional energy infrastructure places an unfair burden on clean energy development.

Eminent domain has long been a tool used to serve the public good, ensuring that critical infrastructure - such as roads, powerlines, and energy generation facilities - can be built when necessary. Solar energy generating stations provide immense public benefits, including job creation, economic investment, in local communities, and improved energy resilience. Blocking the ability to secure land for these projects will only exacerbate Maryland's existing challenges in meeting its energy benchmarks.

This bill only creates unnecessary barriers to solar development and reinforces reliance on outdated energy systems.

For the reasons outlined above, MEA urges the committee to issue an **unfavorable report**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy Manager, directly at megan.outten@maryland.gov, 443-842-1780).