



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Bill 640

Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Stations – Eminent Domain

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee

Date: March 6, 2025

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 640. This bill prevents the use of eminent domain in the construction of solar energy generating stations.

The 2025 Maryland General Assembly is grappling with an unprecedented number of complex, generational challenges. As demand grows for renewable energy, one of the greatest fears of rural landowners is the use of eminent domain for the construction of solar projects. Across rural Maryland, solar energy developments are expanding rapidly—often without consideration for local communities. Many developers bypass collaboration with local officials, site projects on irreplaceable prime farmland, and pressure landowners into seemingly lucrative but ultimately costly agreements. SB 640 seeks to alleviate fears and ensure the rights of private property owners remain protected.

SB 640 is a commonsense bill which seeks to underscore the rights of private property owners. For this reason, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 640 a **FAVORABLE** report.