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February 26, 2025

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Opposing SB0931 – Public Utilities – Generating Stations – Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act)

Dear Chairman Feldman,

I am writing you as the President of the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County regarding Maryland Senate Bill 0931 to express our strong opposition to this bill. Effectively, this bill undermines the ability of our county has to regulate renewable energy as we believe is in our best interests for our county.

Our Planning Commission and Department of Technical and Community Services has done extensive research and conducted numerous meetings over the past 5 years for the siting and regulation of renewable energy in Somerset County, including a solar acreage limit of 1,800 acres, of which approximately 1,300 acres are already utilized by solar energy facilities.

It must be noted that aside from our smaller land size, our county is also disproportionately affected by the increasing Critical Area development requirements and the Critical Area itself. Passing this bill would not only place an undue and unfair hardship on Somerset County as a rural county, but also defeat all of the work done by our county to regulate and control renewable energy as we see best for our county.

Respectfully,

Charles Laird, President
Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County

Cc: Senator Carozza