



Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony on: SB0478 “Public Utilities – Solar Energy Generating Stations – Local Approval”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: March 6, 2025

Valleys Planning Council, a non-profit that conserves land and resources, preserves historic character and maintains the rural feel and land uses in northwestern Baltimore County, urges a favorable report on SB0478, prohibiting the Public Service Commission from approving a certificate of public convenience and necessity for a solar energy generating station unless each county where the generating station is proposed to be located gives written approval for construction to the Commission.

This bill would encourage discussion, negotiation, and compromise between counties and prospective solar developers. Many counties already, or would like begin to, limit or even prohibit large-scale solar installations on certain lands. If the PSC retains the power to grant a CPCN for such a solar installation, this bill might be the only way to allow a county to have *some* say in what happens on land within its borders.

Valleys Planning Council urges a favorable report on SB0478.

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