

SB478/HB739

I strongly urge this committee to support SB478/HB739. I am writing as a Frederick County farmer who has seen firsthand what happens when the PSC overturns county ordinances regarding solar siting. In our county we promote solar siting on lower class soils to preserve the most productive soils for the production of food, fuel and fiber. Recently, maybe the very best farm in our county, with very high-class soils was brought before our county to consideration for a solar project. The solar company was denied approval by our county planning, and sought approval by the PSC to overturn the county rulings. The PSC over rode the county planning and now that farm is building a commercial solar complex. With this PSC ruling, any farm in our county is now eligible for solar without regard to production capability. Adoption of the legislation would protect our county zoning for solar projects by not allowing PSC to approve a solar project unless the county has written approval for the project. Maryland farmland is so diversified from county to county that local recommendations and approval are necessary to maximize having the right use on the right acre. Please support SB478/HB739