

ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

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: Letter of Opposition on SB931 – Generating Stations – Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy
Certainty Act)

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members,

Senate Bill 931 establishes a clear path for the preemption of local zoning authority by restricting and prohibiting local zoning laws that regulate the construction of certain solar energy generating stations and energy storage devices. Further, this bill creates an exemption from personal and real property taxes for solar energy generating stations.

The Renewable Energy Certainty Act undermines local taxing authority, local zoning authority, essential community input and protections. This bill does not contemplate essential safety measures affiliated with utility scale battery storage devices. Should one of these stations or devices catch fire, they are extremely difficult to extinguish, release toxic gases as they burn, and toxins spread through water runoff from attempting to extinguish the fire.

In general, SB931 disregards local land use, comprehensive planning, and economic factors that would otherwise allow counties to partner with the State to achieve renewable energy portfolio goals. This bill is in direct conflict with the County Comprehensive Plan and long-standing land use and property rights assurances provided by the Zoning Code which are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

I respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee report unfavorably on SB931.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

A blue ink signature of Robert G. Cassilly, written in a cursive style.

Robert G. Cassilly