

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY**  
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
501 Court Lane, P.O. Box 26  
Cambridge, Maryland 21613  
(410) 228-1700

GEORGE L. PFEFFER, JR., PRESIDENT

MIKE DETMER, VICE PRESIDENT

ROB KRAMER, JR.

WILLIAM V. NICHOLS

RICKY C. TRAVERS



JERRY JONES  
COUNTY MANAGER

MACLEOD LAW GROUP LLC  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 21, 2025

The Honorable C. T. Wilson, Delegate  
Economic Matters Committee  
231 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **Letter of Opposition** – House Bill 1036, “Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act)”

Dear Chairman Wilson and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its **opposition** for House Bill 1036 entitled, “Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act),” for the purpose of altering the factors the Public Service Commission must consider before taking final action on a certificate of public convenience and necessity; establishing certain requirements for the construction of a certain solar energy generating station or energy storage device; requiring the Commission to conduct a certain study to establish a process by which the Commission may establish partnerships between electric companies and electricity suppliers for electricity generation projects; etc.

House Bill 1036 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 station 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. In general, HB1036 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. Therefore, we kindly request that you look **unfavorably** upon this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of **opposition**. If you have any questions, please contact the Council’s Office at (410) 228-1700

Sincerely,



George L. Pfeffer, Jr.  
President

cc: The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator  
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate  
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate  
The Honorable Tom Hutchinson, Delegate

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February 21, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Senator  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **Letter of Opposition** – Senate Bill 931, “Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act)”

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its **opposition** for Senate Bill 931 entitled, “Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act),” for the purpose of altering the factors the Public Service Commission must consider before taking final action on a certificate of public convenience and necessity; establishing certain requirements for the construction of a certain solar energy generating station or energy storage device; requiring the Commission to conduct a certain study to establish a process by which the Commission may establish partnerships between electric companies and electricity suppliers for electricity generation projects; etc.

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 station 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. 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. Therefore, we kindly request that you look **unfavorably** upon this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of **opposition**. If you have any questions, please contact the Council’s Office at (410) 228-1700

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'George L. Pfeffer, Jr.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

George L. Pfeffer, Jr.  
President

cc: The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator  
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate  
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate  
The Honorable Tom Hutchinson, Delegate