



MARYLAND
HORSE
COUNCIL

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One Common Bond: The Horse
One Common Voice: The Horse Council

In the Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee,
and the House Economic Matters Committee
February 28, 2025

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on SB 931 and HB 1036

Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act)

Unfavorable

The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based trade association that represents the state-wide horse industry in Maryland. Our members include horse farms; horse related businesses; equestrian competitors; trainers; individual enthusiasts; equine-assisted therapy programs; and breed, interest, and discipline associations. We represent over 30,000 Marylanders who make their living with horses, or who just own and love them.

Maryland is home to 16,000 horse properties occupying over 705,000 acres (almost 10% of Maryland's total land area, and over 25% of Maryland's agricultural land). There are horse properties in every county in the state. The retention of agricultural land is of the utmost importance to the members of the Horse Council. Additionally, well-maintained horse pastures are second only to forest in preventing excessive and harmful runoff into the Chesapeake Bay.

This proposed legislation puts equestrian agricultural land and its environmental benefits at risk, by removing utility siting decisions from local control, and effectively, from viable constituent input.

We urge an unfavorable report on SB 931/HB 1036.

Respectfully submitted,

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