



Senate Bill 983

Solar Energy - Distributed Generation Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, Ground-Mounted Solar, and Small Solar Siting Workgroup

MACo Position: **SUPPORT
WITH AMENDMENTS**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee

Date: March 6, 2025

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 983 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill would establish an expedited approval process for solar energy generating systems between 2MW and 5MW.

For more than a year, county officials and professionals, in partnership with MACo, have worked closely with the administration, advocacy groups, and industry leaders to advance Maryland's renewable energy goals through clear, effective, and balanced policies. Counties remain steadfast in their commitment to solutions that address shared challenges and serve the best interests of our communities.

With the amendments developed by the bill sponsors, MACo, industry stakeholders, and the Administration, SB 983 represents a smart, well-balanced approach to accelerating the deployment of small- and medium-scale solar projects. These amendments ensure that increased efficiency does not come at the expense of community input, environmental protections, or other key considerations.

MACo extends its appreciation to the House and Senate sponsors, as well as stakeholders, for their collaboration in addressing county concerns. Counties remain unwavering in their commitment to being the State's partner in government, working alongside the General Assembly to achieve better outcomes for our shared constituents.

If enacted with amendments, SB 983 is a smart and well-balanced policy that will forward Maryland's energy commitments without sacrificing other goals and considerations. For this reason, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 983 a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report.