

I urge you to vote no on SB 0931 Renewable Energy Certainty Act (RECA). I believe this is an extreme overreach by State government. County representatives are more than capable of establishing location and criteria for solar farms as they do in ALL other zoning uses and issues in their county. This bill has several concerns for us as follows:

- Poorly chosen sites could have many adverse impacts on adjacent property owners. Legislation should allow sites to be chosen based on impact to all affected stakeholders in the proximity to the solar farm site which is the opposite of this Bill.

- So much money has been spent to protect environmental issues and planning for communities in order to have balanced development in the future. The State has always granted the ability to local jurisdictions to determine what uses are permitted under which circumstances in their zoning areas. This Bill seeks to override local jurisdictions that clearly know what is best for their communities/constituents and threatens their goals of long range planning.

- The State is currently supporting solar farms with tax and other incentives. When these incentives are ultimately ended and/or solar farm technology is outdated, who is going to remove the infrastructure of these sites that are in our communities, on our neighborhood streets or scenic byways. The expense will ultimately fall on the taxpayers.

- It is unfair to have representatives from other jurisdictions determining what is best as far as solar farm locations in suburban or rural communities. What may work in western Maryland or Baltimore City might not work for communities on the eastern shore of Maryland or in central Maryland counties. It's easy to approve a solar farm when you don't have to live next to it and have property values, farm land, forests, and view sheds affected by it. Local jurisdictions should have the ultimate say in what gets approved and where.

I appreciate you taking a moment to reconsider the appropriateness of this Bill.

Thank you,
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