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CECIL COUNTY

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

March 4, 2025

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 640 – Public Utilities – Solar Energy Generating Stations – Eminent Domain

Senator Feldman & Members of the Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee:

The Cecil County Chamber of Commerce, representing over 400 businesses and organizations in Cecil County, is writing to express our support regarding the proposed ***Senate Bill 640 – Public Utilities – Solar Energy Generating Stations – Eminent Domain***. Our Government Relations Committee, comprised of Chamber members who monitor and provide testimony on pending legislation, has carefully reviewed this bill and request a **FAVORABLE** vote.

The Chamber has reviewed multiple bills before the legislature related to locating ***Solar Energy Generation Stations*** in Maryland. We are very aware of the need for Maryland to address the state's energy deficiency; but there must remain sensitivity to property rights, individual liberties, and the principles of equity by restricting the option of eminent domain. The application of eminent domain powers must be always approached with caution.

The Cecil Chamber foresees a displacement of farmers and the loss of productive farmland having far-reaching consequences for local community sustainability and food security. Agriculture is a critical component of the local economy in Cecil County. When farmland is taken for development projects, it diminishes the community's capacity to sustain itself, leading to increased reliance on external sources for food and economic support.

The Cecil County Chamber of Commerce's membership believes that protecting the lands of our constituency through property rights control is essential. We appreciate your attention and ask for your **FAVORABLE** ruling on **Senate Bill 640**.

Please feel free to contact our Government Relations Committee through Jessica Worley at jworley@cecilchamber.com (410-392-3833) or Committee Chair Carl Roberts at cdennyroberts1@aol.com (443-206-3068).

Sincerely,

Cecil County Chamber of Commerce
Government Relations Committee