

I am writing to formally oppose Maryland House Bill 0734.

HB0734 extends the deadline—from December 31, 2025 to December 31, 2030—by which community solar energy generating systems must be approved for the land they occupy to qualify for an agricultural use property tax assessment. By doing so, the bill effectively **encourages the placement of community solar facilities on agricultural land under the guise of preserving “agricultural use.”** This undermines the long-term protection of productive farmland and threatens rural land that is vital to Maryland’s agricultural economy.

Farmland should be preserved for food production and farming livelihoods, not repurposed for non-agricultural infrastructure that permanently changes the character of rural landscapes. Extending tax benefits for solar development on prime agricultural soil sends the wrong message and creates incentives that could lead to **unnecessary conversion of farmland to industrial energy use.**

I urge you to oppose HB0734 and instead prioritize policies that truly protect agricultural land and respect the economic and cultural value of farming in Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration.