
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 683 – Solar Siting and Preservation Credit Act of 2026

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the citizens of Harford County, I write to express support for Senate Bill 683.

Harford County is committed to both responsible renewable energy development and the long-term preservation of agricultural land. Striking the proper balance between these important priorities requires flexibility at the local level and policies that recognize the realities of land use planning.

Senate Bill 683 provides counties with additional discretion in how certain solar energy generating stations are credited toward acreage limitations within priority preservation areas. This approach does not eliminate preservation safeguards; rather, it gives counties a practical tool to manage solar siting in a manner that aligns with local comprehensive plans, agricultural preservation goals, and community expectations.

Local governments are best positioned to evaluate where solar facilities can be responsibly located while maintaining the integrity of farmland preservation programs. By allowing counties to apply preservation credits in a structured and thoughtful way, SB 683 promotes renewable energy development without undermining long-standing agricultural protections.

As Maryland continues to pursue ambitious clean energy goals, it is essential that counties retain the ability to implement those goals in a manner consistent with local land-use planning and preservation commitments. SB 683 advances that objective by providing measured flexibility rather than imposing a one-size-fits-all mandate.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 683.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



Robert G. Cassilly

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