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February 17, 2026

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

RE: **Letter of Support for SB 26** – Public Utilities - Off-Grid Electricity Providers - Exemption

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Cecil County Government, I write in support of Senate Bill 26, which would create a statutory exemption for off-grid electricity providers from certain provisions of the Public Utilities Article. The bill defines off-grid providers as those generating and supplying electricity independent of the traditional grid—without crossing state lines or public rights-of-way—and exempts them from most regulations applicable to grid-connected utilities.

Cecil County is actively working to attract investment and expand private-sector growth. A developer of a current project has indicated that the existing utility regulatory framework presents significant timeline and cost risks. The exemption proposed in SB 26 could improve project feasibility by allowing innovative energy solutions to move forward more efficiently, while still complying with applicable siting and safety requirements.

New Hampshire enacted similar legislation (House Bill 672) in 2025, exempting qualifying off-grid providers from public utility regulation while maintaining safety and permitting oversight. Supporters there have cited increased innovation, competition, and shorter project timelines. While Maryland's energy landscape is distinct, establishing a clear statutory framework for off-grid providers aligns with efforts to diversify energy options and support local economic development.

Cecil County values reliable and affordable energy for residents and businesses. SB 26 strikes an appropriate balance by enabling new electricity supply models without compromising grid reliability or public safety. I respectfully urge you to look **favorably** on SB 26.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "AS", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Adam Streight
Cecil County Executive