



House Bill 1459

Public Safety – Stationary Energy Storage Systems

Position: FAV

Date: March 10, 2026

To: Environment and
Transportation

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Caroline County Commissioners, we write to express our full support for House Bill 1459. This legislation is particularly important to Caroline County. In recent years, our county has seen increasing interest in the development of large-scale battery energy storage systems. As these projects began moving through the permitting process, they quickly became a significant topic of discussion locally, raising concerns about emergency response readiness and the safety of our communities. In fact, Caroline County has implemented a temporary moratorium on these systems while we work to better understand the risks and ensure appropriate safety measures are in place.

Our volunteer fire departments work tirelessly to protect residents across Caroline County, but incidents involving battery energy storage systems present unique risks that require specialized training, planning, and equipment. Small rural jurisdictions like ours often do not have the funding or technical training necessary to prepare for these types of emergencies on our own.

House Bill 1459 provides a practical and responsible solution by ensuring that the owners and operators of these facilities help support the training and resources needed for local emergency responders. This approach helps protect public safety while ensuring that rural communities like Caroline County are not left to shoulder the burden of preparing for complex new infrastructure.

For these reasons, the Caroline County Commissioners respectfully urge the committee to give House Bill 1459 favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding, President