



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 592

State-Funded Construction and Major Renovation Projects - Solar Panels - Requirement

CBF POSITION: **SUPPORT**

TO: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

DATE: February 19, 2020

Chesapeake Bay Foundation SUPPORTS SB 592. This legislation would require that state-funded buildings be designed to hold the weight of the maximum number of solar panels for that design and that the builders install the maximum number of solar panels.

This bill appropriately sends a signal of priority for meeting renewable energy and greenhouse gas goals through state investments in new buildings and major renovations. Reducing greenhouse gases help stabilize the climate and contributes to water quality. Warmer water holds less oxygen and nitrous oxides from incineration of any fuel deposits nitrogen into the bay. Federal efforts to reverse progress on air pollution from incineration have increased the role states must now play in addressing the air component of the Chesapeake Bay Blueprint.

Targeting new roof construction to accommodate solar panels reduces the demand for large scale solar farms which threaten both forests and farm fields throughout the state. It also locates the generation of electricity right onsite, reducing the need to clear forests for transmission lines.

For these reasons, CBF urges a favorable report on SB 592. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist at (443)-482-2168 or dmyers@cbf.org

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.