

CATHI FORBES  
Legislative District 42A  
Baltimore County

Appropriations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 304  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3487 · 301-858-3487  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3487  
Catherine.Forbes@house.state.md.us

## *The Maryland House of Delegates*

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

### **Testimony in Support of HB 1370**

#### **State-Funded Construction and Major Renovation Projects - Solar Panels – Requirement**

Testimony of Delegate Cathi Forbes

Hearing March 10, 2020 at 1:00 pm

Health and Government Operations

#### ***What this bill does***

This bill would require that state construction or major renovation projects, as well as local construction projects that receive state funding, be designed, engineered, and constructed with solar panels on the roof.

#### ***Why this bill matters***

Maryland's current renewable energy goal is 28% from Tier 1 sources in 2020, including 6% from solar energy. Next year, the renewable energy goal is 30.8% from Tier 1 sources, including 7.5% from solar energy. By 2030, the renewable energy goal is 50%, with 14.5% from solar energy.

According to the Department of Natural Resources [Final Report of the Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard](#), page 43, issued in December, 2019, Maryland will not meet the solar carve-out requirement goals between 2020 and 2029.

This legislative session we are poised to pass HB1/SB1, the Built to Learn Act, which will invest an additional \$2.2 billion in school construction over five years. All of those buildings that have a roof expanse of more than 7,500 square feet should be engineered with solar panels and should have the infrastructure to collect the energy on site. The bill is a logical companion to HB1/SB1.

### ***Who benefits from this bill***

This bill benefits Maryland taxpayers, as the ongoing costs of operating these buildings will be lower. The growing clean jobs economy also benefits, and of course ultimately, the planet itself benefits from solar energy.

Further, this bill mandates the collection of solar at the site where it will be used. This is a more efficient and fiscally responsible method of collection than transferring the energy from “solar farms,” which inevitably result in a certain amount of energy loss during the transfer from remote locations.

### ***Why you should vote for this bill***

This is an opportunity for the state to lead by example. We can’t expect private industry to make these important changes if we, ourselves, aren’t making them.

In 1974, Baltimore County launched an experimental solar panels project on Timonium Elementary School. Imagine if there had been follow through on that project, and we had been using solar panels on all our schools since 1974.

In 2020, our state construction dollars should be investing in energy from renewable resources. It’s the right thing to do, and this is the perfect opportunity to do it. Thank you.

I ask for a favorable report on HB1370.