



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Mary Beth Tung, Director

**TO:** Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
**FROM:** Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA  
**SUBJECT:** HB0469 – State-Funded Construction and Major Renovation Projects - Solar Panels - Requirement  
**DATE:** February 17, 2021

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**MEA POSITION: FWA**

The availability of large tracts of open land in rural communities are ideal for utility-scale solar generation development. This has raised concerns about whether the development of multiple, large projects may consume prime farmland that existing State and local policy aims to preserve due to its importance to the state’s agricultural communities, industry, history, and culture.

To examine these renewable energy siting issues, Governor Hogan established the Task Force on Renewable Energy Development and Siting (REDS) by Executive Order 01.01.2019.09. Solar siting was of particular interest because of the large number of proposed utility-scale solar projects in Maryland. Therefore, a focus of the Task Force was to explore other development opportunities such as brownfields, parking facilities, and rooftops, as well as to consider streamlining of state permitting processes to benefit all forms of generation sources.

House Bill 469 would be complementary to the already great efforts of the REDS task force. By harnessing the sheer volume of State real estate for the installation of solar photovoltaic, HB 469 could have a meaningful impact in increasing adoption of *intelligently sited* solar in both the near- and long-term.

However, forcing the installation of solar may substantially increase capital costs, thus limiting the number of capital projects that can be completed with finite financial resources. MEA’s amendment will remove the requirement, and substitute a procurement option that does not require up-front capital costs.

For these reasons, MEA urges a **favorable report as amended** for House Bill 469.

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 4 strike beginning with “INSTALLATION” in line 2 down through “DESIGNED” in line 3 and substitute “SOLICITATION OF A POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT OR OTHER SOLAR INSTALLATION CONTRACT THAT ELIMINATES UP-FRONT CAPITAL COSTS”.