



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 10, 2022

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB 440 - Electricity - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Generating Capacity**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 440. This bill increases the maximum generating capacity of a community solar energy generating system from 2 megawatts to 5 megawatts.

When the net metering law was created many years ago, a 2-megawatt limit was selected as this would limit the size and scale of the distributive renewable energy project on the landscape and the power grid. This bill looks to increase the size of a solar project by more than 2 ½ times which in turn increases the amount of land needed to have a project that large. There is nothing in this bill that would limit these projects being built on prime and productive farmland. Allowing this increase to public owned lands, brownfields and urban areas would be more favorable than the typical spots on the farmland that is there to produce our food.

MDFB Policy: We oppose any additional increases to the solar carve out in the RPS unless projects are two megawatts or smaller.

We encourage that publicly owned lands, brownfields, rooftops, and urban areas be utilized to assist with the clean energy mandate in lieu of prime and productive farmland.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 440

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396