



**CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Board of Commissioners
Mark C. Cox Sr.
Catherine M. Grasso
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Todd Ireland

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Senator Jack Bailey
The Honorable Senator Michael Jackson

Re: **SB489/HB692** – Public Service Commission–Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity–Local Permits

Calvert County Senators:

The Board of County Commissioners for Calvert County writes in **OPPOSITION** of **SB489/HB692**. Under these Bills, Maryland’s nuanced approach to balancing energy policy and proper local land use is replaced with a unilateral fast track – **jeopardizing sensitive areas, ignoring Environmental Justice concerns and community feedback, and overriding stakeholder-driven land use laws.**

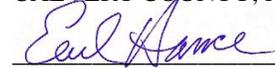
SB489/HB692 seeks to end even the most modest local oversight, and simply directs local government to approve and process virtually any request from a planned facility that has received State approval from the Public Service Commission (PSC). The stark denial of any local input in this legislation poses several problems:

- Community** – One of the most fundamental responsibilities of county government is to help shape the look and feel of a community. SB489/HB692 effectively eliminates any last trace of this power. No setbacks, no stormwater standards, no vegetation requirements.
- Environmental Justice** — The PSC is not required to consider a project’s impact on Environmental Justice, overburdened communities, or underserved neighborhoods. By removing local governments and the communities they serve from the table, SB489/HB692 rejects any of these as local efforts – so nobody would be asking these questions.
- Preservation** – If SB489/HB692 becomes law, all local ability to ensure sensitive, historic, and natural areas remain preserved is eliminated.

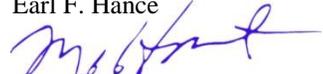
We recognize that the PSC has the final say in the siting of utility-scale energy projects, but this bill goes farther — it resets the “rules of the game” for large scale solar, and effectively removes communities from the table entirely. Please VOTE NO on SB489/HB692.

Your thoughtful consideration of this request is sincerely appreciated. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact County Administrator Julian M. Willis at 410-535-1600, extension 2202 or County Attorney John Norris at 410-535-1600, extension 2566. Thank you for your kind consideration of our position regarding this important Bill.

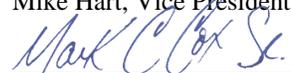
Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND



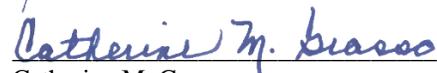
Earl F. Hance



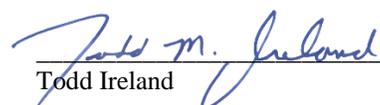
Mike Hart, Vice President



Mark C. Cox Sr.



Catherine M. Grasso



Todd Ireland

cc: Calvert County Delegation
Associate Policy Director Dominic Butchko, dbutchko@mdcounties.org