



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

House Bill 1036

Senate Bill 931

Delegate Wilson, Crosby

Senator Feldman

**Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting
(Renewable Energy Certainty Act)**

POSITION

UNFAVORABLE

The Prince George's County Council respectfully submits this testimony in strong opposition to House Bill 1036 (cross-file Senate Bill 931), the "Renewable Energy Certainty Act." While we fully support the expansion of renewable energy and the promotion of sustainable infrastructure, we oppose House Bill 1036 as it undermines the authority of local jurisdictions and significantly limits our ability to manage land use, zoning, and community development in a manner that best serves our residents.

House Bill 1036 imposes unnecessary restrictions on local authority including the preemption of local zoning authority. This bill mandates the approval of energy storage devices and solar energy generating stations without allowing counties and municipalities to exercise their zoning and planning authority. It effectively strips local governments of their ability to consider unique community characteristics when approving such projects.

Additionally, House Bill 1036 reduces the role of local governments in ensuring transparency and accountability in the siting of energy infrastructure. Residents deserve a voice in the decision-making process, particularly when large-scale projects could affect their neighborhoods, property values, and environmental conditions.

The bill also provides broad tax exemptions for certain solar facilities, which could lead to a substantial loss of local property tax revenue. While we recognize the importance of renewable energy, local jurisdictions rely on these revenues to fund essential services such as public safety, education, and infrastructure maintenance.

Lastly, by expediting approvals and prohibiting local governments from adopting reasonable siting and development regulations, House Bill 1036 weakens our ability to ensure responsible growth that aligns with our community's comprehensive plans and sustainability goals.

For these reasons, The Prince George's County Council opposes House Bill 1036; and instead asks the Committee support policies that foster collaboration between the state and local governments rather than imposing preemptive mandates that undermine local authority.

Prepared by: Ashlar Government Relations on behalf of Prince George's County Council

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