



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

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Date: 15 March 2021

Subject: **CB17-2021 HCCA Testimony Regarding Solar**

We, the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA fully endorse the compelling testimony of both Ted Mariani, President of the Concerned Citizens of Western Howard and Dan O’Leary, Board Chairman of the Greater Highland Crossroads Association regarding CB17-2021.

On the Department of Planning and Zoning’s website the policy of the Agricultural Land Preservation Program Howard County, Maryland Commercial Solar Facilities (CSF) clearly states, “The Agricultural Preservation Board will apply the following standards of review to the CSF Conditional Use Petition criteria in determining if the CSF is ancillary to the primary farming operation, the commercial solar operational area must be a maximum of 16 acres or 20% of the Property’s size, whichever is less, and the petitioner must provide proof that the CSF use is ancillary to their farming operation.” So the question becomes why the change to 34 percent?

Please refer to Page 4, lines 6 thru 11 relating to Ground Mounts. We would like to see an amendment which states the minimum distance such can be displayed from adjacent properties.

We strongly recommend a second amendment to this Bill which is imperative for all your constituents paying taxes. It should state that any property owner who has entered into a contract for an Agricultural Preservation Easement and applies for permission for a CSF within 30 days of final approval of an application for the CSF on the preserved land shall reimburse the County the amount paid to the property owner for the acreage of the preservation easement to be utilized by the CSF.

Theodore Roosevelt stated, “Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.” If you substitute the word “county” for “country” is this Howard County regarding solar on designated Agricultural Preservation property? Agricultural Preservation should really mean something to all. We should honor this program with pride.

Stu Kohn
HCCA President