

Sayers, Margery

From: Robin Hessey <rmhessey@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 2021 7:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for solar project tax abatement - CR 140-2021 & CR 141-2021.

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

From Robin Hessey, District 4 resident,

I would like to ask the Council to support the proposed tax abatement for solar energy projects, CR 140-2021 & CR 141-2021, to encourage and promote solar energy projects in Howard County. As one of the subscribers to the electricity generated by one of the projects currently under consideration, I will receive direct benefit in the form of savings off of my electric bill. Not only do I save money, but I am decreasing my carbon footprint as I support local climate solutions, sustainability and jobs. In addition, the interfaith center where I worship was also able to subscribe with Neighborhood Sun, thus saving a substantial amount on electricity. We had to wait about a year to subscribe because there are so few solar projects available.

However, in addition to the savings, we are excited about the benefits that are created by the solar project, including significant environmental benefits stemming from the reduction in CO2 emissions and the opportunity to source electricity generated locally to Howard County. We support the efforts of Howard County to advance renewable energy locally and ask the Council to do so as well.

Solar projects have similar building costs as large commercial buildings, but they do not require the same County services – they require no

sewer, water, schools, fire or police services. It only makes sense to support the proposed tax abatement for these projects.

Sincerely,

Robin Hessey
10768 McGregor Drive
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Robin Hessey <rmhessey@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 4:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CR140, CR141, CR142, and CR 143 take off the table and Vote YES Dec 6

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to enlist your help in passing four bills (or resolutions) critical for the future of solar power development in Howard County.

CR140, CR141, CR142, and CR 143 all give partial tax breaks to specific projects being proposed in Howard County. It is also important to note that these projects will continue to pay various other Howard County taxes and this is absolutely not a full abatement of their real and personal property tax.

If Howard Co. is serious about sustainability and about decreasing our carbon footprint in the face of the climate change crisis, then we need to bring these resolutions off the table, consider them, and vote YES on each of them.

Sincerely,

Robin Hessey
10768 McGregor Drive
Columbia, MD 20144

Sayers, Margery

From: Paige Getty <minister@uucolumbia.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 5, 2021 9:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CR140, CR141, CR142, and CR143 (solar power in Howard County)

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Chair Walsh, Council Vice-Chair Jones, and Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Rigby:

Please remove Council Resolutions 140, 141, 142, and 143 from the table and vote to pass them, granting PILOTs to the properties affected by those resolutions.

I write to you as a resident of District 4 (I live in Hickory Ridge in Columbia) and as the lead minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia (District 3), which is a co-owner of OBIC—the Owen Brown Interfaith Center, an anchor customer of the community solar project that would benefit from CR140.

We are the project's customer because we believe that we must do what is in our power to combat the climate crisis, and solar power is one of the key tools to do that. But government must do its part to level the playing field so that solar power can compete with the entrenched power of dirty fuel sources. And this minimal tax break is one step in the right direction.

We'll continue doing our part. Please do yours.

Thank you,
Rev. Paige Getty

The Rev. Paige Getty, Minister
she / her / hers
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