

MBIA Letter of Support for CB59 - Solar Energy

JG

Joshua Greenfeld <jgreenfeld@marylandbuilders.org>

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Today 11:54 AM

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MBIA Letter of Support...

148 KB

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Dear Chairman Ball and Members of the Howard County Council:

In advance of tonight's Council session, please accept this letter of support for CB 59 – 2016 (ZRA – 164) on behalf of Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA). Specifically, the proposed legislation permits property owners with AG preservation easements or other restrictive easements the opportunity to build a commercial solar facility on properties where a conditional use is approved.

The MBIA strongly supports the option for landowners to benefit from the use of solar on their properties. The MBIA believes landowners in western Howard County should be given as many options to maintain and thrive on their properties for future generations as possible.

Thank you for your support of this legislation and the home building industry in Howard County.

Best,

Josh Greenfeld, Esq.

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Vice President of Government Affairs

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September 21, 2016

Re: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CB59-2016 – Solar Energy

Dear Chairman Ball and Members of the Howard County Council:

Please accept this letter of support for CB 59 – 2016 (ZRA – 164) on behalf of Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA). Specifically, the proposed legislation permits property owners with AG preservation easements or other restrictive easements the opportunity to build a commercial solar facility on properties where a conditional use is approved.

The MBIA strongly supports the option for landowners to benefit from the use of solar on their properties. However, in order to make solar energy a competitive option for larger properties and not just current agricultural preservation properties, the MBIA also supports an amendment to this bill allowing property owners the option to consider solar first without restricting their future AG preservation or density sending options. It is the MBIA's opinion that the first existing commercial solar facility is harmed if not given the same options to access Howard County's permanent preservation options. A minor amendment allowing density sending (or AG preservation) from existing commercial solar facilities would address this issue and create a level playing field for commercial solar to be placed on the best properties in the county for that use.

The MBIA believes landowners in western Howard County should be given as many options to maintain and thrive on their properties for future generations as possible. Thank you for your support of this legislation and the home building industry in Howard County.

If you have any questions about these comments and would like to discuss MBIA's position further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (443) 433-6287 or Jamie@i-s-land.com or Josh Greenfeld at (443) 515-0025.

Best regards,

James Fraser, Chair, MBIA of Howard County

Cc: County Executive Allan Kittleman
Councilmember Greg Fox
Councilmember Mary Kay Sigaty
Councilmember Jen Terrassa
Councilmember Jon Weinstein

Jessica Feldmark
Diane Wilson
Jahantab Siddiqui
Valdis Lazdins