



House Bill 569

Electricity – Net Energy Metering – Limit

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Economic Matters Committee

Date: February 4, 2021

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 569. The bill expands the net metering capacity allowed by law from 1,500 megawatts to 3,000 megawatts. Net metering and community solar projects help create a more robust and decentralized energy grid. Counties support net metering as a useful tool for long term energy planning purposes.

Net metering, and by extension aggregate net metering, provide benefits to local government. Counties undertake and plan for community solar projects, which are subject to the availability of generating capacity under the current net metering cap. For local governments to continue long term planning for energy needs, an expansion of the current capacity cap would be both useful and sensible.

In the Public Service Commission's 2020 Report on the Status of Net Energy Metering In the State of Maryland, the Commission noted that it "believes it may be prudent to begin exploring the next phase for net metering in Maryland." Increasing the current limit will allow for better planning and more useful projects in the future. HB 569 provides reasonable flexibility for counties to undertake useful and needed net metering and community solar projects.

Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a report of **FAVORABLE** for HB 569.