



Senate Bill 54

Local Government – Clean Energy Loan Programs – Grid Resilience Projects

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

Date: January 19, 2021

From: Michael Sanderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 54. This bill modestly expands the current local option Clean Energy Loan Program, to expand its potential use to include grid resilience elements.

Many counties have sought to promote clean and alternative energy usage, both within the county government and its facilities, but also among their residents and businesses. Maryland's Clean Energy Loan Program has served these goals, allowing counties to promote solar and other projects and leveraging the county's revenue collection mechanism to ease their associated overhead costs.

SB 54 creates a broadened list of project components – still in keeping with the policy goals of the originally established program. Projects that include power storage, battery systems, and other elements that may complement clean energy goals but relate more directly to grid resilience. Counties employing this program would gain more flexibility to extend their new or existing offerings, and further their energy goals and those of county residents.

SB 54 helpfully expands a useful local option program, extending this successful model into energy storage and grid resilience. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 54 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.