



March 27, 2017

The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton
Chair, Finance Committee
Maryland State Senate
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Middleton:

This letter outlines several commitments agreed upon by the stakeholders who worked on SB 931, *Local Jurisdictions – Zoning Authority – Generating Stations*. Several of these commitments were originally part of the bill itself, but were removed on the understanding that they would happen without the need for statutory language. This letter preserves these commitments for the legislative record.

1. The Power Plant Research Program will conduct an informal study, in consultation with interested stakeholders, on ways to improve notice and communication processes between developers of generating stations, the State, and local governments.
2. MACo, the Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) or its local chapter, and other interested stakeholders will meet over 2017 and develop proposed best practices for utility scale solar developers operating in Maryland.
3. Senate Finance Chair Mac Middleton will hold discussions with interested stakeholders regarding energy development on land subject to state land preservation and conservation easements (MET, MALPF, etc.) and Rural Legacy Areas prior to the start of the 2018 Session. The discussions may result in possible legislation similar to what was previously enacted regarding MALPF easements but would not seek to amend the certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) statute.
4. Unless there is a significant change in the energy development landscape or the CPCN process changes contained in this bill are not working as intended, MACo commits to not introduce or propose legislation directly affecting the CPCN process for the next several years.

MACo wishes to thank the stakeholders for all of their good faith work and efforts regarding the bill and the related commitments. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at lnapp@mdcounties.org or 410.269.0043.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leslie Knapp Jr.'.

Leslie Knapp Jr.
Legal and Policy Counsel, MACo

CC: The Honorable John Astle, Vice Chair, Finance Committee, Maryland State Senate