



To: Members of the Net Metering Working Group advising the Maryland Public Service Commission

From: Stephen Marley on behalf of the Advocates for Herring Bay

Date: April 12, 2021

Re: RM56: Proposed ecological eligibility criteria for the award of “supplemental” capacity for Community Solar Energy Generation Systems

It is our understanding that the Net Metering Working Group is collaborating on eligibility criteria that could be used during the 2022-2024 period to award additional capacity for community solar projects in the event that the volume of capacity allowed under the current regulations for the pilot program has been exhausted.

As explained in our previous filings in RM56, the Advocates for Herring Bay believe that in-state solar generation projects can and should be developed in a manner that avoids the degradation or loss of beneficial ecosystems that reduce air and water pollution, provide wildlife habitat, and naturally sequester carbon. Thus, we respectfully request that the Working Group approve the following changes to the March 9, 2021 filing by the Staff of the Maryland Public Service Commission regarding eligibility criteria for supplemental capacity:

Recommendation of the Advocates for Herring Bay

Revise the text on page 9 of the Staff’s March 9, 2021 filing regarding 20.62.02.02.E.(1)(d) and insert new E.(1)(f), as shown in red font:

20.62.02.02.

E. Supplementary Capacity

(1) Beginning no earlier than October 1, 2022, but not later than December 31, 2024, a person may petition the Commission to award additional category capacity to a specific project based on the criteria in this section. The petition shall describe the project’s benefits to the program, including the following...

Revise (1)(d) to read:

(1)(d) Protection of Agricultural ~~and Ecological~~ resources

Insert new (1)(f):

(f) Protection of Ecological resources, as demonstrated by project maps prepared using the Department of Natural Resource’s *Greenprint* GIS (<https://geodata.md.gov/greenprint/>) that show that the acreage inside the fence line is not located on acreage that, prior to the development of the project, was identified by the State of Maryland as either a Targeted Ecological Area or as land with an ecological services value equal to or greater than \$200 per year per 30-meter pixel (or \$900 per acre per year).