

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Phillip Musegaas** <[phillip@prknetwork.org](mailto:phillip@prknetwork.org)>

Date: Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 5:46 PM

Subject: Request for public hearing - MD Solar1 LLC Permit - Charles County

To: Ben Grumbles -MDE- <[ben.grumbles@maryland.gov](mailto:ben.grumbles@maryland.gov)>

Cc: Denise Keehner -MDE- <[denise.keehner@maryland.gov](mailto:denise.keehner@maryland.gov)>, <[jeffrey.thompson@maryland.gov](mailto:jeffrey.thompson@maryland.gov)>

Hello Ben,

I hope 2019 is off to a good start for you. I'm writing to add my voice to the list of environmental advocates requesting a public hearing on a large solar project in Charles County. Notwithstanding the horrible misspelling of your name, I think the attached letter captures our concerns and desire for a hearing pretty well.

Thank you for considering this.

Phillip

**Phillip Musegaas**

**Vice President of Programs and Litigation**

**Potomac Riverkeeper Network**

3070 M Street NW

Washington, DC 20007

ph 202-888-2037 (main) \* ph 202-888-4929 (direct)

[phillip@prknetwork.org](mailto:phillip@prknetwork.org) \* [www.prknetwork.org](http://www.prknetwork.org)

[Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#) – [Donate](#)

Selected for the 2014/15 Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington

January 8, 2019



Secretary Ben Grumbles  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

**Re: MD Solar 1 LLC, Shugart Valley, Charles County—  
AI Number 162822, Permit Tracking Number 201861760**

**AMP Creeks Council**  
Kelly Canavan, *President*

**Audubon Maryland-DC**  
David Curson, *Director of Bird Conservation*

**Chapman Forest Foundation**  
Bonnie Bick, *President*

**Clean Water Action**  
Emily Ranson, *Maryland Program Coordinator*

**Coalition for Smarter Growth**  
Stewart Schwartz, *Executive Director*

**Conservancy for Charles County**  
Hal Delaplaine, *President*

**Maryland Conservation Council**  
Paulette Hammond, *President*

**Maryland Native Plant Society**  
Kirsten Johnson, *President*

**Maryland Ornithological Society**  
Kurt R. Schwarz, *Conservation Chair*

**Mattawoman Watershed Society**  
Laurie Snow, *President*

**Nanjemoy-Potomac Environmental Coalition**  
Deanna Wheeler, *President*

**Nanjemoy Vision, Inc.**  
Millie Hamman, *President*

**Potomac Riverkeeper Network**  
Dean Naujoks, *Potomac Riverkeeper*

**Preservation Maryland**  
Kimberly Brandt, *Director of Smart Growth Maryland*

**Southern Maryland Audubon Society**  
Bob Lukinic, *Vice-President and Conservation Chair*

**Southern Maryland Group Sierra Club**  
Rosa Pinnola Hance, *Chair*

**Dear Secretary Gumbles,**

The Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County is a group of more than 20 local, regional and state organizations working together to promote quality development in areas planned for growth and to protect the county's outstanding environmental assets to preserve and enhance the quality of life enjoyed by residents.

We hereby ask that the Maryland Department of Environment conduct a public hearing regarding the MD Solar 1 LLC project proposed at Shugart Valley in Charles County. This project is proposed pursuant to the MD Solar 1 LLC Power Purchase Agreement with Georgetown University.

Many citizens and organizations are concerned about the possible impacts to the Tier 2 streams on the site and potential water quality degradation. There is also great concern about the negative effects of clearcutting 240 acres of high-value forest interior in an Audubon Important Bird Area and Southern Maryland's largest forest. We have noted that the project site is located within a Department of Natural Resources Targeted Ecological Area, a designation given to the most ecologically valuable areas in Maryland—"the best of the best."

While we support clean energy, we are concerned that the negative impacts of this project will significantly outweigh the benefits. We believe Georgetown University would be better served by locating their solar project on a property without the considerable environmental assets found on the subject site.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our request for a public hearing.

**Sincerely,  
Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County**

cc: Jeff Thompson, Division Chief—[jeffrey.thompson@maryland.gov](mailto:jeffrey.thompson@maryland.gov)  
Denise Keehner, Program Manager—[denise.keehner@maryland.gov](mailto:denise.keehner@maryland.gov)