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From: **Kimberly Golden Brandt** <kbrandt@presmd.org>

Date: Tue, Jan 8, 2019 at 7:45 PM

Subject: MD Solar 1 LLC, Shugart Valley, Charles County - AI Number 162822, Permit Tracking Number 201861760

To: ben.grumbles@maryland.gov <ben.grumbles@maryland.gov>

Cc: jeffrey.thompson@maryland.gov <jeffrey.thompson@maryland.gov>, denise.keehner@maryland.gov <denise.keehner@maryland.gov>

Dear Secretary Grumbles,

Please see the attached request for a public hearing on the Georgetown University solar project in Charles County. The request is submitted by AMP Creeks Council, Audubon Maryland-DC, Chapman Forest Foundation, Clean Water Action, Coalition for Smarter Growth, Conservancy for Charles County, Maryland Conservation Council, Maryland Native Plant Society, Maryland Ornithological Society, Mattawoman Watershed Society, Nanjemoy-Potomac Environmental Coalition, Nanjemoy Vision, Potomac Riverkeeper Network, Preservation Maryland, Southern Maryland Audubon Society, and Southern Maryland Group - Sierra Club.

We appreciate your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Golden Brandt

Director of Smart Growth Maryland

PRESERVATION MARYLAND

3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 248

Baltimore, Maryland 21211

o. 410-685-2886 x305 c. 410-598-9026

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
Denise Keehner, Program Manager—denise.keehner@maryland.gov