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**Sponsor Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1034 -  
County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act  
Before the Economic Matters Committee  
March 5, 2020**

House Bill 1034 is enabling legislation that is designed to speed investments in energy efficient street lighting.

Street lighting is important for safety and for commerce. It is one of the largest energy expenses for county and municipal governments.

Due to advances in technology, investing in street lighting upgrades can result in many benefits, including better safety and reduced energy and maintenance expenses.

Unfortunately, Maryland's cities and counties are far behind those in other states in enjoying the benefits of upgrading to modern street lighting technology. We have only converted a small number of utility-owned street lights to newer types. For example, in Montgomery County, only 49 out of 28,021 utility-owned lights in the Pepco territory are LED.

HB1034 will help remedy this problem. By authorizing local governments to assume ownership of the lighting infrastructure, they can partner directly with the private sector to expedite lighting upgrades.

HB1034 provides a clear and defined process for local governments exploring this type of upgrade. It is modeled after laws on the books in other states. This approach has worked well in other states, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, California and Pennsylvania.

HB1034 also provides for other energy saving innovations, such as part-night lighting and smart dimming that other states have embraced.

I ask for your favorable report.

