



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

March 3, 2020

The Honorable Susan C. Lee
Maryland Senate
223 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for SB 835, Legislative Initiative to Establish the County and Municipal Street Light Investment Act

Dear Senator Lee,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC), I am writing to offer our support for your bill (SB 835) that establishes a process by which local governments may acquire street lighting equipment from electric companies at a fair market value.

The bill establishes a clear assessment for determining fair market value, establishes an orderly process for putting a value on streetlights acquired from a utility, streamlines the process for resolving any disputes, and provides Maryland's local governments additional control over the cost, quality, and efficiency of their street lighting fixtures.

Street lighting is a significant energy expense for local jurisdictions. The bill's passage would allow Maryland municipalities to use energy-efficient lights in their operations and reduce their carbon footprint. Supporting initiatives to meet the region's climate goals is a COG policy priority and the bill's passage will directly assist Maryland municipalities to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Please contact Steve Walz, COG's Director of Environmental Programs at (202) 962-3205 or swalz@mwkog.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Sze'.

Hon. Daniel Sze
Chair, Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee