



Office of The Mayor Celina Benitez

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Tuesday, March 18, 2025
Senate Finance Committee

Letter of Support for House Bill 372 – Prince George's Gateway Development Authority Sunset Repeal

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes, and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of the City of Mount Rainier, I am pleased to express our strong support for **House Bill 372**. This critical legislation ensures the continued existence of the Authority, allowing it to fulfill its mission of driving economic development, revitalizing neighborhoods, and improving infrastructure within our community and the broader Gateway region.

Since its inception, the Prince George's Gateway Development Authority has been instrumental in fostering collaboration among local municipalities, state agencies, and stakeholders. By providing oversight, strategic planning, and funding opportunities, the Authority strives to play a key role in advancing neighborhood revitalization efforts, supporting small businesses, and enhancing transportation and housing initiatives in Mount Rainier and surrounding communities.

The City of Mount Rainier recognizes the long-term value of the Authority's work and strongly believes that its dissolution would create a void in regional development efforts, potentially stalling progress in our target areas. By repealing the sunset provision, **HB 372** ensures that the Authority can continue making meaningful, lasting contributions to the economic and social well-being of our community.

For these reasons, we urge a **Favorable Report on HB 372**.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Celina R. Benitez

Mayor Celina R. Benitez, City of Mount Rainier