



City of Mount Rainier

1 Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 2071 Telephone: (301) 985-6585; Fax (301) 985-6595

February 11, 2021

Re: Support for House Bill 1083, The County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act.

The Honorable Economic Matters Chair C.T. Wilson

Dear Senator C.T. Wilson,

The City Mount Rainier is joining the Maryland Municipal League and various cities in Support of House Bill 1083 Sponsored by Delegate Carr.

The City of Mount Rainier has looked into this matter for several years as the utility costs for maintenance, repair and installation of street lights continue to escalate. Thus, far the options available have been cost prohibitive.

HB1083 authorizes local government like Mount Rainier, subject to specified requirements, to (1) convert its street lighting service to a customer-owned street lighting tariff established under the bill; (2) submit a request to acquire "street lighting equipment," as defined, from the electric company at some or all locations within the county or municipality; and (3) enter into an agreement to purchase electricity. If the county or municipality and the electric company fail to agree to the purchase price or conditions of purchase of the street lighting equipment, the county or municipality may acquire the equipment by condemnation, subject to specified requirements.

We support the conversion of utility-owned street lighting to customer-owned lighting as a best practice and is proven to improve service and reduce costs. It has been successfully employed for local governments in California, the District of Columbia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and in other states.

The Maryland Municipal League and individual municipal officials were instrumental in getting the original Maryland legislation passed in 2007 and we are in support of efforts to strengthen the law.

We want to thank you for your attention to this matter and your willingness to sponsor this bill. Any questions please feel free to reach out at MayorBenitez@MountRainierMR.org

Sincerely,

Celina Benitez

Mayor Celina R. Benitez, City of Mount Rainier
On behalf of Mount Rainier Mayor and Council