



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

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February 16, 2022

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Delegate C. T. Wilson, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
Annapolis, MD 21401-1912

RE: Support for HB 1083 - County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act

Dear Chairman Wilson and Committee Members:

The City of College Park City Council voted unanimously on February 15, 2022 to support HB 1083 - County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act. If enacted, this legislation would create a clear, fair, and efficient process for local governments to purchase existing streetlights and assume responsibility for maintaining and upgrading this equipment.

Quality street lighting is a major public safety, environmental, and financial concern for local governments, and unfortunately current law falls short in each area. Local governments have insufficient control over the quality of lighting, and the utility companies have insufficient incentive to provide high quality maintenance and efficient fixtures. HB 1083 establishes a fair manner to calculate the value of existing street lighting equipment.

College Park previously looked into the possibility of purchasing streetlights in the City because despite paying hundreds of thousands of dollars in maintenance and electricity fees, the quality of lighting and maintenance is not at a commensurate level. With HB 1083, the City would be able to pay fair market value to acquire streetlights, increase public safety with better lighting, and decrease financial and environmental costs.

We believe this legislation will create important public safety, financial, and environmental benefits across the State, and respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1083.

Sincerely,

Patrick L. Wojahn
Mayor

cc: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, 21st District
Delegate Ben Barnes, 21st District