



March 7, 2022

Senator Delores G. Kelley  
Chair, Finance Committee  
3 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

**RE: Support for SB376/HB1083- County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act**

Dear Chairs and Committee Members:

The Mayor and City Council of Gaithersburg support Senate Bill 762 & House Bill 1187. This legislation would authorize a county or municipality to convert its street lighting service to a customer-owned street lighting tariff, acquire certain street lighting equipment by purchase or condemnation, enter into an agreement to purchase electricity, and request that an electric company remove certain street lighting equipment in the county's or municipality's jurisdiction

This bill has the potential to provide a meaningful benefit for local governments that acquire street lighting equipment. Although local government expenditures for street lighting equipment may increase in the short term as they elect to exercise their authority to purchase street lighting equipment, those expenditures could consequently decline as municipalities, such as the City of Gaithersburg, install low-energy bulbs, switch to customer-owned street lighting tariffs, and pay separately for street lighting equipment maintenance. As noted in the Fiscal and Policy Note, small businesses involved in the maintenance of street lighting equipment could potentially benefit from the bill as well, to the extent that local governments exercise the option to purchase and maintain street lights, as these street lighting equipment purchased by local governments will no longer be maintained by an electric company such as

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MAYOR  
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
Neil Harris  
Lisa Henderson  
Jim McNulty  
Ryan Spiegel  
Robert T. Wu

CITY MANAGER  
Tanisha R. Briley

PEPCO. Gaithersburg currently contracts with private businesses for some street light maintenance, and could potentially augment such contracts if additional lights become the property of the City.

For all of the reasons stated herein, we respectfully request these committees grant these bills a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jud Ashman", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jud Ashman

Mayor

City of Gaithersburg