

SB376 - Economic - County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act

Date: March 10th, 2022

Committee: Finance

Position: Favorable

Davonte Douglas, Maryland Policy Fellow - Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report from the committee on **SB376 - County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act**. Converting Maryland's street lights to efficient LED lighting would help to reduce Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions while also improving the accessibility and safety of communities by achieving a better service at a lower cost.

The CCAN Action Fund is the advocacy arm of Chesapeake Climate Action Network, a grassroots organization dedicated exclusively to fighting for bold and just solutions to climate change in the Chesapeake region of Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. We believe that the state government has a crucial role to play in mitigating climate change and should lead by example in all efforts to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. This is particularly important for our electricity infrastructure and our ability to adapt to a world that will be phasing out fossil fuel use. SB376 updates Maryland's street lights to run on efficient LED bulbs to conserve and reduce electricity use.

SB376 authorizes counties and municipalities to:

- Convert their 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
- Request that an electric company remove certain street lighting equipment in the county's or municipality's jurisdiction

We believe that this bill is a commonsense step in the path to meeting Maryland's emission reduction and energy efficiency goals while also ensuring that Maryland's communities are provided with accessible street lights that provide better services at a lower cost. Thank you for your consideration of SB376. For all the reasons stated above, we urge a favorable vote from the committee.

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