



March 7, 2022

The Honorable Susan C. Lee
Senator, Maryland General Assembly
James Senate Office Building, Room 223
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for SB 376, Legislative Initiative to Establish the County and Municipal Street Light Investment Act

Dear Senator Lee:

On behalf of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I am writing to offer our support for your bill, the County and Municipal Street Light Investment Act, that establishes a process by which local governments may improve service and reduce costs by choosing a maintenance or LED upgrade provider. As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, COG supports your efforts to enable local governments to upgrade streetlights to be more energy efficient, which aligns with our legislative priorities.

The bill enables local governments and municipalities to convert its streetlighting service to customer-owned streetlighting tariff, establishes an orderly process for putting a value on streetlights acquired from a utility, streamlines the process for resolving any disputes, and provides Maryland's local governments additional control over the cost, quality, and efficiency of their streetlighting fixtures. Streetlighting is a significant energy expense for local jurisdictions. The bill's passage would allow Maryland municipalities to use energy-efficient lights in their operations and reduce their carbon footprint. The bill's passage will directly assist Maryland municipalities in improving energy efficiency and making progress toward our regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

Additionally, COG, together with the Maryland Energy Administration, Clean Energy Solutions, Inc., Virginia Energy, and the National Association of State Energy Officials, have been working on an initiative to facilitate the adoption of LED streetlights by local governments. The County and Municipal Street Light Investment Act would greatly facilitate these efforts by removing barriers to local governments adopting more energy efficient streetlighting.

Please contact Jeffrey King, COG Director of Climate, Energy, and Air Programs at (202) 962-3238 or jking@mwkog.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Koran Saines'.

Koran T. Saines
Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee