



February 13, 2023

The Honorable C. T. Wilson
Chair, House Economic Matters Committee
Delegate, Maryland General Assembly
Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for HB 459, Legislative Initiative to Establish the County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act

Dear Delegate Wilson:

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 HB 459, which establishes a process by which local governments may improve service and reduce costs by choosing a maintenance or LED upgrade provider.

Climate change is a regional priority for COG, the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington. The bill's passage will directly assist Maryland municipalities in improving energy efficiency and making progress toward our regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. The bill enables local governments and municipalities to convert their 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.

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

COG supports your efforts to enable local governments to upgrade streetlights to be more energy efficient, which aligns with our legislative priorities. 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. I appreciate your consideration.

The Honorable C. T. Wilson
February 13, 2023

Sincerely,



Takis Karantonis
Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

cc: Honorable Brian M. Crosby
Honorable Christopher T. Adams
Honorable Marlon Amprey
Honorable Steven J. Arentz
Honorable Adrian Boafo
Honorable Lorig Charkoudian
Honorable Diana M. Fennell
Honorable Mark N. Fisher
Honorable Andrea Fletcher Harrison
Honorable David Fraser-Hidalgo
Honorable Seth A. Howard
Honorable Carl Jackson
Honorable Andre V. Johnson, Jr.
Honorable Jesse T. Pippy
Honorable Andrew C. Pruski
Honorable Lily Qi
Honorable Pam Queen
Honorable Mike Rogers
Honorable April Rose
Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes
Honorable Veronica Turner
Honorable Kriselda Valderrama
Honorable William J. Wivell
Honorable Aaron Kaufman