



February 14, 2023

House Economic Matters Committee
c/o Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair
Delegate Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair

RE: Support for House Bill 459

Dear Delegates Wilson and Crosby and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

Chevy Chase Village hereby submits our support of House Bill 459, the County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act.

This enabling legislation will streamline the process for local governments that are considering acquisition for the ownership and maintenance of what are currently utility-owned overhead streetlights. Conversion of utility-owned street lighting to customer-owned lighting is a best practice proven to improve service reliability and reduce costs. In the case of the Village, ownership of the streetlights within our community would allow us to transition to LED technology, which would also have the benefit of reducing energy consumption.

Bill 459 strengthens the original Maryland law enacted in 2007. The Maryland Municipal League and individual municipalities were instrumental in getting the original Maryland legislation passed in 2007 and have supported subsequent efforts to strengthen the law, many of whom are also lending their support to Bill 459.

We urge you to issue a favorable report for HB 459.

Sincerely,

Gary B. Crockett
Board Treasurer (and Street Lighting Lead)
Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers

cc: Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers
Delegate Aaron Kaufman (District 18)
Bob Smith, Counsel, House Economic Matters Committee
Maryland Municipal League

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