



Barney Rush, *Mayor*  
Joel Rubin, *Vice Mayor*  
Irene Lane, *Treasurer*  
Rich Brancato, *Secretary*  
Joy White, *Community Liaison*

March 24, 2023

Maryland State Senate  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the Town Council, I would like to register the Town's position of favorable with amendments for HB 459 -- County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act. We ask that the bill be amended to restore the version that was originally introduced in the House. The bill, as currently amended, has the effect of requiring the buyer to pay "Fair Market Value," whereas the original definition required paying net book value, meaning that depreciation would be deducted from the original cost. This is a major difference affecting both the ease by which a municipality can pursue the option of purchasing a lighting system and the cost of such a lighting system. We see no valid reason for a municipality to pay for the depreciated portion of an asset that its residents, as Pepco ratepayers, have already paid for.

This enabling legislation, as originally introduced, strengthens the original Maryland law on this subject and will streamline the process for local governments to acquire utility-owned overhead streetlights and assume ownership and maintenance.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of HB 459.

Sincerely,

Barney Rush  
Mayor

cc: Delegate Aaron Kaufman  
Delegate Emily Shetty  
Delegate Jared Solomon  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher