



March 28, 2023

House Bill – County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act

Senate Education, Energy, & Environment Committee

POSITION: Support

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee:

The Town of Bladensburg writes to support House Bill 459 - County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act. If enacted, this legislation would create a clear, fair, and efficient process for local governments to purchase existing streetlights and assume responsibility for maintaining and upgrading this equipment.

Quality street lighting is a major public safety, environmental, and financial concern for local governments, and unfortunately current law falls short in each area. Local governments have insufficient control over the quality of lighting, and the utility companies have insufficient incentive to provide high quality maintenance and efficient fixtures. House Bill 459 establishes a fair manner to calculate the value of existing street lighting equipment.

Many of our member municipalities have explored the possibility of purchasing the streetlights within their jurisdictions, because despite paying hundreds of thousands of dollars in maintenance and electricity fees, the quality of lighting and maintenance is not at a commensurate level. With House Bill 459, municipalities would be able to pay fair market value to acquire streetlights, increase public safety with better lighting, and decrease financial and environmental costs.

We believe this legislation will create important public safety, financial, and environmental benefits across the State, and respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 459.

Sincerely,

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