



March 01, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 851- Environment – Development of Outdoor Lighting Standards

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has reviewed HB 851 and would like to provide the following information. HB 851 would require the Department to develop outdoor lighting standards on or before October 1, 2024. MDE would be required to consult with the Maryland Energy Administration and Department of Health.

While the Department agrees setting standards are important for energy efficiency and public health, MDE does not currently have staff expertise in this area. In order to set these standards, the Department would need to obtain contractual assistance to develop outdoor lighting standards. .

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor HB 851 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at gabrielle.leach@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabrielle Leach".

Gabrielle Leach

cc: Christopher R. Hoagland, Air and Radiation Administration
The Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins