



**Thomas E. Dernoga**  
Council Member  
District 1

"Effective. Responsive. Committed."

February 20, 2026

The Honorable Marc Kaufman  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Annapolis, Maryland

**RE: Support for House Bill 950 (HB950) – County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act**

Dear Delegate Kaufman,

I write to express my strong support for HB950 – County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act.

HB950 provides counties and municipalities with a clear and equitable pathway to acquire street lighting equipment, convert to a customer-owned street lighting tariff, enter into agreements to purchase electricity, and contract for maintenance services that better serve their communities. Local governments invest significant public funds in street lighting, yet often have limited control over maintenance standards, repair timelines, fixture upgrades, and long-term cost efficiency. This bill offers the flexibility needed to responsibly manage this critical public safety infrastructure.

Enhanced local control over street lighting advances several key policy priorities. Improved lighting strengthens public safety, increases visibility for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, and supports Prince George's County's Vision Zero goals to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries. Additionally, the opportunity to modernize systems with energy-efficient technology can reduce operational costs while advancing environmental sustainability goals.

Importantly, HB950 is enabling legislation. It does not require any jurisdiction to take action but authorizes local governments to determine whether acquisition and management of street lighting equipment is in the best interest of their residents.

Thank you for your commitment to providing local governments with the tools necessary to enhance public safety and fiscal responsibility. I respectfully support HB950.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Dernoga