



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ANDREW FRIEDSON  
COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 1

February 20, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Michele Guyton, Vice Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Taylor House Office Building, Room 251  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for HB 950, The County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act

Dear Chair Korman and Vice Chair Guyton,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 950, which allows local governments to achieve better street lighting service at a lower cost. This legislation strengthens a similar 2007 Maryland law and streamlines the process for local governments to acquire utility-owned streetlights at fair market value and assume ownership and maintenance. The bill also empowers counties to acquire property in the event an agreement is not reached and to request the removal of equipment that is not purchased by the jurisdiction. Finally, the bill directs the electric utilities to file tariffs with the Public Service Commission that only include electrical distribution fees, which would allow local governments to choose their own energy supplier, an option available to most other consumers.

Other jurisdictions, including California and Rhode Island, have enabled local governments to purchase street lighting technology. In implementing similar regulations, these jurisdictions have observed lower maintenance costs, decreased energy usage, and improved reliability because of the expedited installation of LED bulbs.

I support the additional flexibility this legislation would provide to local jurisdictions, including a number of municipalities in Montgomery County and my district, which are interested in adopting these practices. With appreciation for the substantial work that has been put into this matter by State legislators, Public Service Commission staff, and municipal stakeholders, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 950.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Friedson".

Andrew Friedson  
Councilmember, District 1