



February 17, 2026

Bill: HB 950 – Public Utilities – Street Lighting Equipment – Acquisitions and Reporting (County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act)

Position: Support

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Gaithersburg, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 950, the County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act. This legislation finds that local governments pay electric companies large sums to light streets while being limited in how this critical public safety resource can be managed and improved.

For Gaithersburg, we already own and maintain approximately 4,000 streetlights within the City. There are an additional 600 streetlights in Gaithersburg that are owned and maintained by Pepco, primarily fixtures located on wooden utility poles that also carry other overhead utilities. HB 950 provides a clear and workable path for us to pursue acquisition of some or all of these remaining streetlights in the future should it be of interest.

Our experience strongly supports the policy direction of HB 950. Gaithersburg's ownership and maintenance of approximately 4,000 streetlights have allowed us to systematically convert our fixtures to LED technology, yielding significant reductions in energy consumption, and maintenance needs, while improving lighting quality and public safety. Having the ability to own and manage these assets directly enables better coordination with development, more responsive repairs, and more strategic long-term planning of the street lighting system.

For these reasons, the City of Gaithersburg respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 950. Thank you for your consideration and for your support of legislation that enhances local control over an essential public safety and infrastructure asset.

Respectfully submitted,

Jud Ashman, Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

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