



**VILLAGE OF NORTH CHEVY CHASE
PO BOX 15887, CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815**

To: Marc Korman, Chair
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

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

From: Council for the Village of North Chevy Chase

Date: February 20, 2026

The Village of North Chevy Chase, along with Chevy Chase Village, the Town of Washington Grove, the City of College Park, the City of Gaithersburg, and Section 3 of the Village of Chevy Chase (the “Municipalities”), has been actively seeking to secure a process to purchase its streetlights since 2022 when it became a party in Public Service Commission Case No. 9703. Efforts to purchase Pepco owned streetlights by the Municipalities, which has been allowed by law since 2007, have been unsuccessful. Pepco owns 66,000 streetlights in Montgomery County and Prince George’s County. The vast majority of these streetlights continue to be high pressure sodium (“HPS”). HPS lights are highly inefficient and the fixtures are no longer even available. The Municipalities seek to enable acquisition of the streetlights, replacement of the outdated and energy wasteful HPS streetlights with LED, and installation of dimmers in an effort to reduce energy use and cost. Enabling a local government to purchase decades old HPS streetlights at an appropriate net book value, replace them with LED bulbs, and maintain the lights through a contractor instead of Pepco can be done at significantly less cost than the cost stated by Pepco in its proposed tariffs.

As part of the administrative proceeding and Case No. 9703, the Municipalities sought to reach agreement with Pepco on a Model Agreement for Sale of Streetlights and Model License Agreement for Overhead Electrical Service and Attachments to Utility Poles for Street and Area Lighting (together, “Model Agreements”) in an effort to advance the acquisition process beyond a stand still. The Public Service Commission supported this effort. The Municipalities and Pepco have negotiated since 2022 and have been able to reach a consensus on most of the issues surrounding the Model Agreements. However, Pepco is seeking to require unnecessary, non-industry standard requirements that they have not required of themselves or mandated elsewhere in their service territory for municipal-owned lights in DC and Gaithersburg which increase costs and create a barrier to entry. These issues are frustrating efforts to acquire the streetlights.

The Municipalities seek to resolve these remaining issues through adoption of HB 950 so that local governments can finally purchase their streetlights and begin the conversion to LED, thereby saving energy and cost and helping the environment. We support HB 950.

We ask that your Committee report favorably on HB 950.

Village of North Chevy Chase Councilmembers:

Adrian Andreassi, Chair

Maury Mechanick, Vice Chair

Brian Hoffner, Secretary

Geetika Sripathi, Treasurer

Jon Macy, Member