



February 3, 2021

The Honorable Kaye Kory
Virginia House of Delegates
Pocahontas Building
900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Support for HB 1919, Legislative Initiative to Authorize Localities to Establish Local Green Banks

Dear Delegate Kory,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC), we offer support for your bill (HB 1919), authorizing Virginia localities by ordinance, to establish a green bank to promote investment in clean energy technologies.

The Clean Energy Virginia initiative, alongside the Virginia Clean Economy Act, establish ambitious statewide goals for clean energy deployment in the Commonwealth of Virginia. These policies require the retirement of all carbon emitting sources of electricity by 2045, and call for greater investment in solar, onshore and offshore wind, energy efficient technologies, and other clean energy technologies. Many localities in the COG region lack financing tools that would allow for such a rapid expansion of clean energy deployment. This bill would authorize the establishment of local green banks, thereby improving localities ability to finance clean energy projects to accomplish the Commonwealth's ambitious clean energy goals.

Supporting initiatives to meet the region's climate goals is one of COG's environmental priorities. The bill's passage will directly assist in implementing actions to facilitate deployment of clean energy technologies, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and encourage smart growth.

Please contact Jeffrey King, COG's Chief of Energy and Climate Programs at (202) 962-3238 or jking@mwkog.org if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deni Taveras'.

Hon. Deni Taveras
Chair, Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee