



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

March 15, 2021

The Honorable Michael J. Rogers
Delegate, Maryland General Assembly
House Office Building Room 162
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for HB 70, Energy Efficiency - Net-Zero Homes - Contract Preferences

Dear Delegate Rogers:

On behalf of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I am writing to offer our support for your bill, HB 70, Energy Efficiency - Net-Zero Homes - Contract Preferences. As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, COG supports giving preference to applications for funding for net-zero homes from small, minority, women-owned businesses and veteran-owned businesses. Supporting policies and programs to improve climate and energy resilience at the local level aligns with our 2021 Legislative Priorities.

Half of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the region are associated with the built environment. Achieving the region's overall GHG emissions reduction goals will not be possible without the implementation of equitable planning processes that fully integrate the concerns and needs of disadvantaged communities. The region must continue to build on programs and policies that help accelerate the adoption of net zero energy buildings – those that produce as much energy as they use, including homes. Supporting policies and programs to improve climate and energy resilience at the local level is a COG environmental priority.

As underserved communities have been disproportionately impacted by climate change, integrating equity into all components of energy efficiency programs is critical to ensure that climate policies and programs address the concerns of all community members, particularly those in underserved communities. This bill adds an important step by considering equity in the implementation of a state energy efficiency program.

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".

Deni Taveras
Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee
Prince George's County

777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET NE, SUITE 300, WASHINGTON, DC 20002
MWCOG.ORG (202) 962-3200