

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON  COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

One Region Moving Forward

September 28, 2011

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*Adjunct Member

The Honorable Senator ____
United States Senate
123 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for Amended Senate Bill 652

Dear Senator ____:

On behalf of the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I am writing to request that you **consider amendments to the American Infrastructure Financing Authority (AIFA) to better foster deployment of new clean and reliable energy resources.** Specifically we ask that you take steps to *lower the eligibility threshold to \$25,000,000 to ensure that district energy and thermal energy solutions are eligible under this program.*

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an association of 21 local governments in the metropolitan Washington region. COG is actively working with key stakeholders in the region to promote expanded use of reliable energy technologies such as district energy, combined heat and power, and microgrids. This bill, if enacted, would establish an important new financing mechanism for new infrastructure to support our transition to clean and reliable energy technology. However, as currently drafted, there is a minimum eligibility threshold of \$100,000,000. Many of these systems would not be eligible under the current eligibility threshold. We recommend you lower the threshold to accommodate deployment of such systems.

We applaud you in your efforts to provide infrastructure financing that can help to encourage market certainty and catalyze market growth and create green jobs, just as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program helped to stimulate the widespread adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

Thank you for giving this your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jay Fisette, Chair
Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee

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