

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON  COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

One Region Moving Forward

March 2, 2012

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Manassas Park
Prince William County*

Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support HB 1088

Dear Delegate Davis:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I urge you to **support HB 1088**, establishing an energy efficiency on-bill financing program. This legislation removes barriers to efficiency upgrades, helping to conserve natural resources, save money, and promote economic growth.

HB 1088 provides an affordable and user-friendly way for Maryland residents and businesses to make efficiency improvements. High up-front costs are the single biggest obstacle to achieving greater energy efficiency. This program removes that barrier by allowing customers to pay back all the cost of their efficiency improvements with money saved on their monthly utility bills.

Interest in on-bill financing programs is growing across the country. Fourteen states have programs already in place, and several more are exploring pilot programs. These projects create private sector jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by saving energy in the residential, commercial, and government sectors .

The Council of Governments has been a leader in promoting energy efficiency throughout the metropolitan Washington region. In the past two years, projects funded by Federal Energy Efficiency Community Block Grants have led to more than 3,500 building energy efficiency assessments across the region. With the EECBG program expiring, it is critical to continue energy efficiency improvement programs in the region.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Principi, Chairman
COG Board of Directors

cc: House Economic Matters Committee

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