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Charles County
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Frederick
Frederick County
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Arlington County
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Fairfax County
Falls Church
Loudoun County
Manassas
Manassas Park
Prince William County*

**Adjunct Member*

Honorable John C. Watkins
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor
General Assembly Building, Room 331
Capitol Square
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Support HB 129 - Purchases from Net Metering Sellers

Dear Senator Watkins:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I am writing to urge you to **support HB 129**, allowing electricity customers to purchase 100% renewable energy from net metering sellers through power purchase agreements (PPAs).

This bill expands consumer choice and opens opportunities for private sector investment in clean energy. It enables energy customers to enjoy 100% renewable-produced power and the benefits of net metering without taking on the burden of high up-front costs and a complex permitting process.

Opening gateways to renewable energy generation in Virginia drives economic growth. According to the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, **each 1 percent that Virginia reduces its energy imports keeps nearly \$150 million in the state's economy.**

HB 129 would strengthen ongoing solar energy programs in the greater Washington region. COG members Arlington and Loudoun Counties have community energy plans that call for over 260 MW of solar installations by 2040, and COG's work with the EPA Green Power Partnership could bring another 30 to 40 MW to the region.

We urge you to **support HB 129** as a powerful tool for increasing clean energy generation in the Commonwealth. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Hon. Frank J. Principi, Chair
Board of Directors

CC: Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor

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