



February 17, 2022

The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair, Economic Matters Committee
Delegate, Maryland General Assembly
231 Taylor House Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for HB 31 Maryland Energy Administration – Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund

Dear Delegate Wilson:

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 HB 31 to establish the Resiliency Hub Grant Program Fund in the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA). As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, COG supports efforts to prioritize funding for resiliency hubs and energy-sector infrastructure to improve the resilience of local communities, which is consistent with COG's legislative priorities.

Resiliency hubs provide community-building activities, support to residents, and life-saving resources before, during, and after climate events. These are important services particularly within vulnerable neighborhoods, where residents may lack access to resources necessary to prepare for and recover from climate events. HB 31 would make the Resilience Hub Pilot Program within MEA, which provides grants to local governments and organizations to develop resiliency hubs and prioritizes projects that use microgrids, a permanent program. The bill would ensure the program receives \$500,000 of funding each year and directs MEA and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to identify and apply for additional grant funding for the program. This bill would assist our region in leveraging funding to establish resiliency hubs to provide vital energy supply during power outages and extreme weather events, as well as crucial support to our vulnerable communities.

CEEPC, on behalf of COG, supports HB 31, as it would greatly assist those most impacted by climate change in our region. Please contact Jeffrey King, COG Director of Climate, Energy, and Air Programs at (202) 962-3238 or jking@mwcog.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Koran Saines'.

Koran T. Saines
Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee