

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON  COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

*One Region Moving Forward*

March 2, 2012

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Manassas  
Manassas Park  
Prince William County*

Honorable Joan C. Conway, Chair  
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support SB 688**

Dear Senator Conway:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I urge you to **support SB 688**, which establishes a process by which local governments may acquire street lighting equipment from the local electrical utility at a fair market value.

**This bill promotes fair negotiations with utilities, giving Maryland's local governments control over the cost, quality, and efficiency of their street lighting fixtures.**

Stalemates in negotiation have prevented any local governments from purchasing street lighting since given that authority in 2007. This bill establishes a clear process for determining fair market value, setting an even playing field for local governments and utilities and allowing these transactions to go forward.

Furthermore, SB 688 helps Maryland municipalities achieve their ambitious efficiency goals. Switching to more efficient street lighting can cut electricity consumption up to 50 percent. Those reductions, combined with reduced maintenance costs, translate into real savings for Maryland taxpayers.

We urge you to **support SB 688**, helping Maryland municipalities achieve their ambitious efficiency goals and gain greater control over their street lighting choices.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Principi, Chairman  
COG Board of Directors

cc: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

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