



February 24, 2022

The Honorable Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr.
Chair, Senate Local Government Committee
Senator, Virginia General Assembly
Pocahontas Building, Room E609
900 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Support for HB 443, Park authorities; authority to operate, etc., electric vehicle charging stations.

Dear Senator Lewis:

On behalf of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I am writing to support HB 443 as it relates to park authorities having the ability to locate, operate, and regulate electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, COG supports efforts to expand the adoption of zero-emission vehicles, which is consistent with COG's legislative priorities.

Electrification of the vehicle fleet is one of the highest impact strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions between now and 2030. Light-duty on-road vehicles are responsible for 60 percent of transportation emissions in the region. A critical barrier to the accelerated adoption of EVs in the region is a lack of adequate EV charging stations. Currently, park authorities established by a locality do not have authority to operate charging stations. This bill would allow park authorities to operate charging stations in parks, historical sites, recreational areas, and other key corridors that would further enable access to consumers.

Removing this barrier would assist in accelerating the build out of the EV charging network, and it has the potential to assist in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our region. CEEPC, on behalf of COG, supports HB 443, as it would greatly assist our region in the adoption of EVs.

Please contact Jeffrey King, COG Director of Climate, Energy, and Air Programs at (202) 962-3238 or jking@mwkog.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