



February 8, 2022

The Honorable James W. Morefield
Chair of House Counties, Cities and Towns Sub-Committee: Subcommittee #2
Delegate, Virginia General Assembly
Pocahontas Building, Room W228
900 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Support for HB 905, Energy efficiency standards; more stringent energy efficiency requirements.

Dear Delegate Morefield:

On behalf of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I am writing to support allowing localities to develop and adopt building code provisions and standards that are more stringent than those contained in the Uniform Statewide Building Code. COG supports efforts at the local and state levels to expand the adoption of energy efficient and zero energy building codes, which is consistent with COG's legislative priorities.

Climate change is a regional priority for COG, the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington. Since half of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the region are associated with the built environment, green building codes have significant potential to reduce emissions. While Virginia has adopted building codes that incorporate energy efficiency components outlined in the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), local jurisdictions are not permitted to adopt more stringent codes that exceed state minimum standards ("stretch codes"). HB 905 would allow localities to develop and adopt stretch codes that are more stringent than those in the Uniform Statewide Building Code. Allowing localities to adopt more stringent building codes is an effective means to significantly reduce the total energy consumption of commercial, municipal, and residential buildings via energy efficiency upgrades, while also encouraging on-site renewable energy generation.

CEEPC, on behalf of COG, supports HB 905, as it would greatly facilitate local governments' efforts to reduce GHG emissions from the built environment. 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

cc: Northern Virginia House Delegation members