

July 23, 2013

*District of Columbia  
Bladensburg\*  
Bowie  
Charles County  
College Park  
Frederick  
Frederick County  
Gaithersburg  
Greenbelt  
Montgomery County  
Prince George's County  
Rockville  
Takoma Park  
Alexandria  
Arlington County  
Fairfax  
Fairfax County  
Falls Church  
Loudoun County  
Manassas  
Manassas Park  
Prince William County*

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rob Portman  
U.S. Senate

**RE: Support for the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2013**

Dear Senators Shaheen and Portman,

On behalf of the Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, I wish to express our support for S. 761, The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2013.

We commend your efforts to improve energy productivity throughout the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. Together, these sectors account for over 70% of all energy consumed in the U.S., making this bill an important step toward a cleaner, more secure, and economically vibrant energy future.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is an independent nonprofit association that brings together leaders from 22 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress—including Sen. Mark Warner, one of the bill's cosponsors—to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia. Among our top initiatives is aiding the implementation of large-scale, sustained investments in energy efficiency.

We strongly support the provisions in this bill to establish and expand energy efficiency retrofit financing programs at the state level. It is widely recognized that energy efficiency makes good business sense, yet access to financing on terms that work for building owners and are attractive to the investment community is still limited.

The Commercial Building Energy Efficiency Financing Initiative will help increase the impact of innovative finance program and identify best practices. Additionally, the data that will be collected through this program can be used to make the case to large financial institutions that energy efficiency is a profitable, low-risk investment. Public-private partnerships in our region have already developed programs including Commercial PACE and credit enhancement arrangements, which could grow in scale and impact under this initiative.

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*\*Adjunct Member*

Additionally, we support the provisions in this bill that will increase the efficiency of new buildings through improved building energy codes. A federal effort to guide development and implementation of enhanced codes will ensure that we make smart long-term investments in efficient new buildings, thereby “locking in” energy savings from the first day a building is occupied.

Leaders in our region have been active in promoting efficiency in building energy codes through the International Code Council, and in particular were instrumental in passing the “30% solution” which markedly improved the energy performance of the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code. Federal support will help ensure that current code provisions are maintained and continue to improve.

Finally, as home to the federal government, we support provisions to improve efficiency in federal buildings through IT solutions, operations and maintenance, and server consolidation.

We again commend your leadership on this issue and offer our support in helping to advance this important bill toward enactment by the 113th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Berliner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger Berliner, Chair  
Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments