



March 16, 2021

The Honorable Paul Pinsky  
Senator, Maryland General Assembly  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Cheryl Kagan  
Senator, Maryland General Assembly  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for HB 61, Statewide Green Business Certification Program

Dear Senator Pinsky and Senator Kagan:

On behalf of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) and the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), we are writing to offer our support for HB 61, Statewide Green Business Certification Program. As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, COG supports Maryland's efforts to expand education to consumers on green businesses at the state level to help meet the region's medium and long-term climate change goals, which align with our 2021 Legislative Priorities.

The voluntary Statewide Green Business Certification Program provides an incentive for businesses to be recognized for incorporating sustainable practices and would be an expansion of Montgomery County's existing program. With this certification at the statewide level, businesses are encouraged to develop and maintain sustainable business practices that will contribute to healthier air and water quality, an efficient use of resources and waste reduction, as well as energy efficiency. The program also provides an avenue to educate consumers on green practices through increasing the visibility of sustainable business practices. The need to expand education on climate change in our region must occur through all sectors, including providing consumers with the ability to choose sustainable products and services in the marketplace through their purchasing power.

Please contact Jeffrey King, COG's Chief of Energy and Climate Programs at (202) 962-3238 or [jking@mwkog.org](mailto:jking@mwkog.org) and Steven Bieber, COG's Water Resources Program Director at (202) 962-3219 or [sbieber@mwkog.org](mailto:sbieber@mwkog.org) if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deni Taveras'.

Deni Taveras  
Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Policy Committee  
Prince George's County

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Laurie-Anne Sayles'.

Laurie-Anne Sayles  
Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources  
Policy Committee  
City of Gaithersburg