



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Jennifer B. Boysko
Senate of Virginia
Pocahontas Building
900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Support for SB 1224, Legislative Initiatives for Uniform Statewide Building Code

Dear Senator Boysko,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC), I am writing to offer our support for your bill (SB 1224) that would require the Board of Housing and Community Development to adopt updated energy efficiency provisions according to the Uniform Statewide Building Code within one year of publication of a new version of the International Code Council's International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).

One of the most cost-effective ways of lowering greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is to construct energy efficient buildings. The IECC is a national standard for energy efficient construction. Currently, Virginia's building code falls far short of this national standard. Keeping Virginia's building codes updated and in line with nationally recognized standards can be effective in significantly reducing energy consumption in the built environment. Since half of all GHG emissions in the region are associated with the built environment, updating these building codes would support COG's policy priorities to meet the region's climate goals.

Please contact Jeffrey King, COG's Chief of Energy and Climate Programs at (202) 962-3238 or jking@mwcog.org if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Hon. Deni Taveras
Chair, Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee