



February 17, 2022

The Honorable Mary M. Cheh
Chair, Committee on Transportation and the Environment
Councilmember, Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 108
Washington, DC 20004

RE: B24-0420 - Clean Energy DC Building Code Amendment Act of 2021

Dear Councilmember Cheh:

On behalf of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I am writing to offer our support for B24-0420 to codify net zero energy standards for new construction buildings by January 1, 2026. As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, COG supports efforts at the local and state levels to expand the adoption of energy efficient and zero energy buildings, which is consistent with COG's legislative priorities.

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 and assist in accelerating the adoption of net zero energy buildings that produce as much energy as they use. Currently, the District of Columbia has a voluntary net zero energy standard. B24-0420 would require all new construction buildings to meet net zero energy standards starting January 1, 2026. Mandating green building codes for newly constructed buildings has significant potential to reduce emissions and will assist the region meeting its GHG emission reduction goals, including reaching 50 percent GHG emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2030, and 80 percent by 2050.

CEEPC, on behalf of COG, supports B24-0420 as it would greatly assist the region in meeting its GHG emission reduction goals. 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