

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON  COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

One Region Moving Forward

February 23, 2012

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Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support HB 864

Dear Delegate Davis:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I urge you to **support HB 864**, establishing net energy metering community energy-generating facilities. **This legislation promotes in-state renewable energy generation—helping meet Maryland’s ambitious RPS goals—while increasing grid reliability and energy independence.**

Community energy generation helps address Maryland’s pressing electrical reliability and capacity issues. By decreasing demand on centralized generation and distribution systems, this bill can reduce power disruptions and increase system stability. In addition, it helps meet Maryland’s growing energy demand. HB 864 would allow community energy generators to build up to 1,500 megawatts of clean energy capacity in the state, enough to power 1.5 million households each year.

COG has actively promoted community generation throughout the greater Washington area. Since 2010, our Integrated Community Energy Taskforce has supported municipalities interested in pursuing community energy solutions. This legislation complements ongoing efforts in the Washington region, providing further incentive to increase community-based renewable generation.

We urge you to **support HB 864**, taking advantage of this opportunity to support Maryland’s clean energy future. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Hon. Frank J. Principi, Chair
Board of Directors

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