

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON  COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

One Region Moving Forward

March 5, 2012

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Fairfax County
Falls Church
Loudoun County
Manassas
Manassas Park
Prince William County*

Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support SB 595

Dear Senator Middleton:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I urge you to **support SB 595**, 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. SB 595 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 SB 595**, taking advantage of this opportunity to support Maryland’s clean energy future. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Principi, Chairman
COG Board of Directors

cc: Senate Finance Committee

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