

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON  COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

One Region Moving Forward

February 23, 2012

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Fairfax County
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Manassas Park
Prince William County*

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

RE: Support HB 628

Dear Delegate Davis:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I urge you to **support HB 628**, which establishes a process by which local governments may acquire street lighting equipment from the local electrical utility at a fair market value.

This bill promotes fair negotiations with utilities, giving Maryland's local governments control over the cost, quality, and efficiency of their street lighting fixtures.

Stalemates in negotiation have prevented any local governments from purchasing street lighting since given that authority in 2007. This bill establishes a clear process for determining fair market value, setting an even playing field for local governments and utilities and allowing these transaction sto go forward.

Furthermore, HB 628 helps Maryland municipalities achieve their ambitious efficiency goals. Switching to more efficient street lighting can cut electricity consumption up to 50 percent. Those reductions, combined with reduced maintenance costs, translate into real savings for Maryland taxpayers.

We urge you to **support HB 628**, helping Maryland municipalities achieve their ambitious efficiency goals and gain greater control over their street lighting choices. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Hon. Frank J. Principi, Chair
Board of Directors

777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002
202.962.3200 (Phone) 202.962.3201 (Fax) 202.962.3213 (TDD)