



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Jeffrey M. Bourne
Virginia House of Delegates
Pocahontas Building
900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Support for HB 2048, Legislative Initiative to Expand Renewable Energy Markets in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Dear Delegate Bourne,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC), we offer our support for your bill (HB 2048) that would expand the renewable energy marketplace for individual retail customers in Virginia.

We particularly support removing barriers that would allow greater expansion of renewable energy purchases in the COG region. Currently, the lack of a competitive renewable energy market in the Commonwealth of Virginia has left many residences without affordable renewable energy options. This bill's passage will expand renewable energy markets in Virginia and assist residential customers in their efforts to purchase renewable energy. Transitioning to clean energy sources is one of COG's chief environmental priorities, as it provides a path for the COG region to achieve their ambitious climate goals. This bill would greatly benefit COG's local jurisdictions in their efforts to achieve these goals. Additionally, the requirement to offer discounted renewable energy products to low-income customers supports COG's efforts to enhance sustainable energy access for all.

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