

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON  COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

One Region Moving Forward

March 2, 2012

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

RE: Support SB 997 - Electric Vehicle Users and Charging Stations

Dear Senator Middleton,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I urge you to **support SB 997**, which exempts electric vehicle charging stations from public utility regulation.

This foundational piece of legislation promotes wider adoption of electric vehicles by eliminating regulatory uncertainty around charging stations. The availability of charging facilities is a key factor in the decision to buy or lease an electric vehicle. However, the current level of uncertainty about whether charging stations will be regulated as utilities has hindered the expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure.

Electric vehicles help reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions while promoting energy independence. It is critical that Maryland creates a clear policy framework to promote private investment in electric vehicle infrastructure.

The Council of Governments supports the advancement of electric vehicle technology through its Regional EV Planning Initiative. Working groups are developing key recommendations to facilitate an EV Infrastructure plan for the greater Washington area, including forecasts of EV deployment and needs for charging infrastructure.

To that end, we urge you to **support SB 997** as an important step toward developing a clear and robust electric vehicle policy framework for the region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Principi, Chairman
COG Board of Directors

cc: Senate Finance Committee

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