

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON  COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

One Region Moving Forward

February 23, 2012

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

RE: HB 441 – Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2012

Dear Delegate Davis,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I urge you to **support HB 441**, the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2012.

COG is dedicated to promoting renewable energy, combating climate change, and creating the jobs that the new sustainable economy will require. We applaud the State of Maryland for adopting an aggressive Renewable Portfolio Standard, reaching 20% renewable energy by 2020. We support the development of offshore wind energy as a means of helping achieve this goal.

Developing Maryland's offshore wind resources is critical to ensure a clean, secure, and home-grown energy supply for the state. Maryland imports 30% of its electricity every year, incurring significant transmission costs and congestion charges for ratepayers. Offshore wind power will reduce those costs and stabilize long-term energy prices. Furthermore, it will create clean-energy jobs and reduce air pollution.

We urge you to **support HB 441** to bring offshore wind energy to Maryland. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Hon. Frank J. Principi, Chair
Board of Directors

CC: House Economic Matters Committee

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