



November 17, 2023

Debbie Messmer
Grants Management and Recovery, Financial Management Bureau
Virginia Department of Emergency Management
9711 Farrer Court
North Chesterfield, VA 23236

Dear Ms. Messmer,

I am writing to express the Arlington Chamber of Commerce's support for the Arlington County Microgrid Feasibility Study Project Scoping sub-application under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. Ensuring energy reliability and security for our critical facilities, core business districts, resiliency hubs, and vulnerable community service sites is most important during and immediately following disaster events when widespread power outages have and will continue to occur. This sub-application, which is aimed at fortifying energy supply and distribution for facilities that serve our most at-risk communities, represents a critical step towards achieving long-term resiliency.

The Arlington Chamber has a vested interest in the funding and success of this project scoping activity. Arlington County is a bridge for commerce and critical services within the Metropolitan Washington District. Key military and relief agencies operate from their base in Arlington, and our business community represents an international gateway, with a number of global businesses headquartered within the County. Microgrid resiliency will ensure that these critical operations and activities can optimally perform in crisis. Further, we place priority value on systems and strategies that ensure timely, effective delivery of those services and operations and, importantly, mitigate risk, loss, and safety threats among vulnerable populations. Therefore, evaluating and identifying cost-effective and technically feasible mitigation solutions to reduce the impacts of energy emergencies on our critical facilities will generate significant benefits for all and, perhaps especially, for our most vulnerable residents.

The Arlington Chamber supports the County's investment in energy sustainability, efficiency, and equity and supports funding of the Microgrid Feasibility Study Project Scoping sub-application under the FY 2023 BRIC program.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO