



March 18, 2024

Jeffrey King
Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Director King:

On behalf of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) in implementing the measures identified in the Virginia Initiative for Building Efficiency (VIBE) program, under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

Arlington County government has committed to being a carbon neutral County by the year 2050. The target by the County is aspirational and can be an impetus for innovation, provided that the County encourages policies and programs that accommodate individual circumstances and focus on incentives rather than mandates.

The VIBE program is such a policy, incentivizing energy performance improvements for multifamily and commercial buildings through providing technical assistance, construction incentives, and resources for building owners to leverage a financing mechanism portfolio. This would apply to building owners in both low-income disadvantaged communities and non-disadvantaged communities, as well as municipal buildings and schools. The project will complement existing programs and expand incentives within Virginia to modify, renovate and improve older buildings in disadvantaged communities, which have structural and occupational issues affecting air quality and human health.

The VIBE program would incentivize property owners to improve their buildings' energy performance and their building efficiency in a manner that would not add undue burdens to Virginia businesses and property owners.

We support the project and look forward to its implementation. We 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