Resolution Regarding Clean Energy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018 (B22-0904)

Whereas, our Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh introduced the Clean Energy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018 in the DC Council on July 10, 2018, building on the District's commitment to sustainability and Renewable Portfolio Standards that put the city in the forefront in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting against the devastating effects of climate change;

Whereas, Councilmember Cheh held the first hearing on the proposed bill in the Committee on Transportation and Environment on October 9, 2018;

Whereas, Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie has scheduled a second hearing on the bill before the Committee on Business and Economic Development on October 29, 2018;

Whereas, the bill includes a series of significant advances in the city's policies on environment and energy, including: raising the city's Renewable Portfolio Standards to require each electricity supplier in the District to provide 100% renewable energy by the year 2032, rather than the current target of 50%; establishing energy and environmental performance standards for new buildings; raising the small fees on utility bills to fund sustainable energy projects, with 20% of the revenues to be devoted to offsetting increased bills for low income households; requiring the DC DMV to establish a new structure of excise taxes on personal motor vehicles to reflect fuel efficiency; and boosting District efforts to work with other states in the region to adopt taxes on carbon emissions or other initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases;

Whereas, the provisions of the proposed legislation would assist the city greatly in reaching its established environmental and energy goals, by creating programs to allow the District to achieve the carbon emission reductions that have been identified as necessary to avert the most destructive consequences of global warming;

Whereas, the Clean Energy DC legislation is also designed to provide important protections against higher energy bills for residents with low incomes and fixed incomes;

Therefore BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Commission supports the goals of the proposed legislation and urges the Council committees to consider the comments on how to assure it will be effective at meeting the goals and move the bill forward to the full Council for vote by the end of the year.

FURTHER BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the Chairman or his designee are authorized to represent the Commission on this matter.

This resolution was approved by a vote of 5-0 at a duly noticed regular public meeting of the Commission on October 16, 2018 at which a quorum was present. (Three of the five Commissioners make a quorum.)