



904 Cannon Road
Colesville, MD 20904
February 20, 2011

Economic Matters Committee
Attn: Dereck Davis, Chair
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB391 *Maryland Electricity Service Quality and Reliability Act*

Dear Chairman Davis:

The Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF)* membership voted on February 14, 2011 to strongly support House Bill 391. The bill requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to set electricity standards for frequency and duration of outages and would apply to all major electric distribution companies operating in Maryland. Many residents throughout Maryland, and especially within Montgomery County, have had many and long-duration power outages within the last year, and also for a number of years earlier.

We agree that the standards follow national standards to the extent practical and that the level of performance be established for the fourth quartile. We also support the requirement that the PSC set the standards by July 2012 and start evaluating the actual performance against those standards a year later. We agree that PSC be required to assess penalties, that the penalties be returned to the rate players affected and that higher rates not be passed on to the rate payers to cover the cost of the penalty or reduced consumption due to the outages.

We applaud the Governor for proposing the legislation to address this reliability problem. We strongly urge the legislature to promptly enact Bill HB391.

.Sincerely,

Daniel L. Wilhelm
MCCF Vice President and Legislative Committee Chair

Cc: Montgomery County Delegation

* MCCF is a coalition of citizens' associations and other groups from throughout Montgomery County.