



## ENERGY/AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 6, 2010

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
County Executive, Montgomery County Government  
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor  
Rockville, Md 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

As part of the Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee's duties under Montgomery County Code Chapter 18A-5, we advise the County Executive and the County Council on energy and air quality issues and we develop recommendations to promote and implement immediate and long-range energy and air quality improvements across all segments of the community. The purpose of this letter is to begin a dialogue about Montgomery County's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions goals and actions as developed by the Sustainability Working Group (SWG). We applaud the SWG for its work and the County's adoption of an ambitious objective of a 20 percent reduction of GHGs by the year 2020 (based on a 2005 baseline). This effort clearly positions the County at the forefront of local government action to address a serious global, regional, and local issue.

However, we have some concerns about the practicality of setting an objective without establishing specific sub-objectives and transparent metrics that allow the County to measure and track progress. While we recognize that a sub-objective for commercial buildings does exist (25 percent reduction by 2020), two other sectors — transportation and residential buildings — lack sub-objectives, and all three sectors lack the metrics necessary to measure progress along the way. We believe that establishing metrics now will be critical to ensure that future County leadership will comprehend the steps necessary to meet its objectives. Finally, the exercise of establishing sub-objectives and measurement metrics will provide the County with meaningful feedback on its progress towards this important objective of GHG emissions reductions.

We offer the expertise and guidance of this Committee, working collaboratively with the Department of Environmental Protection and building upon the work of the County's consultants, to assist the County government and the SWG in establishing specific targets in the three sectors and track their performance. Our goal would be to develop a series of quantifiable, permanent, and achievable actions.

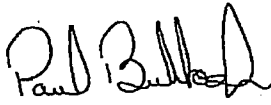
We look forward to your response and guidance.

**Department of Environmental Protection**

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Berlin". The signature is stylized with large, bold letters and a prominent flourish at the end.

Chair, Montgomery County Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee

CC:

Robert Hoyt, Director, Department of Environmental Protection

Councilmember Nancy Floreen

Councilmember Roger Berliner