



BILL NO.: HB 169  
TITLE: Marilyn J. Praisner Safe and Earth-Friendly Roadway Act  
POSITION: **OPPOSE**  
DATE: February 9, 2010  
COMMITTEE: House Environmental Matters  
CONTACT: Andrea Mansfield

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** House Bill 169. This bill would authorize local jurisdictions to install or replace highway lighting only 1) if passive or reflective lighting does not address safety concerns; and 2) with lighting designed to minimize light pollution, veiling luminance ratio, and light trespass. The bill also establishes a waiver process and specifies duties for electric companies when installing or replacing highway lighting.

MACo fully supports practices to maximize energy efficiency and minimize light pollution. However, it is concerned with the mandatory nature of HB 169 and believes it could increase costs for replacing lights in some situations. For example, if a streetlight is knocked down because of an accident, a local jurisdiction would be required to replace the streetlight with a restricted uplight unit, unless a waiver is requested. A restricted uplight unit that matches the existing streetlight may not exist possibly forcing a jurisdiction to go to considerable expense to change all street lights in that specific section of the jurisdiction to restricted uplight units. In this situation, MACo believes that a local jurisdiction should have the flexibility to replace street lighting without going through the waiver process.

MACo has discussed its concerns with the sponsor of HB 169 and understands that it is not the sponsor's intent to place onerous burdens on local jurisdictions. MACo is willing to work with the sponsor on amendments to give jurisdictions flexibility to replace lighting in damage situations as described above without going through the waiver process.

For these reasons, MACo **OPPOSES** HB 169 in its current form and will work with the sponsor on amendments to address its concerns.