

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Energy and Environment



November 15, 2018

Mayor Ninna Hedeager Olsen
Technical and Environmental Committee
City of Copenhagen, Denmark

RE: Letter of Support for the Resilient and Sustainable City Solutions Program

Dear Mayor Olsen and Technical and Environmental Committee Members:

On behalf of Washington, DC (District), I urge the City of Copenhagen to continue providing funding for the Resilient and Sustainable City Solutions Program (Program). Over the past four years, the Program has been instrumental in providing an opportunity for collaboration and exchange of knowledge in cloudburst management and climate adaptation between the District and Copenhagen. I believe the Program is vital for Copenhagen to export knowledge and expertise in innovative urban water management not only to the US cities, but other cities around the world.

As the first LEED Platinum City, the District views Copenhagen and the Program as a model for assisting other cities around the world to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. In 2016, I signed the Washington, DC-Copenhagen Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) to formalize our relationship on urban climate challenges because I recognized that Copenhagen's leadership and expertise would help further our vital climate adaptation work. Since then, the District has engaged Ramboll in a contract for the Buzzard Point Resilience Study which has influenced waterfront development in the Buzzard Point neighborhood of the District. I look forward to working with Ramboll and other Danish businesses such as Archiland to meet our aggressive climate goals.

Where Washington, DC is facing flood risks from three sources (coastal, riverine, and inland flooding) and the risks are increasing due to sea level rise and extreme weather, DC needs innovative ideas and real-life examples to address increasing flood risks in a holistic approach. Since 2014, the District has been engaging with other delta cities, including Copenhagen on urban flood risk management through C40's Connecting Delta Cities network.

Since then, the District has been working closely with Copenhagen and its consulting experts on multiple efforts, namely the Buzzard Point Resilience Study and the Watts Branch Flood Risk Management Study. The District currently plans to apply for grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop cloudburst resilience projects in Watts Branch. Through our collaborations, other District agencies are also interested in applying cloudburst solutions to their plans and projects. Since the C40 Connecting Delta Cities network workshop in Venice last month, we have teamed up with Copenhagen to introduce the complete cloudburst

management planning process to a broader audience in the District through a one-day workshop in March 2019.

In October of 2019, the District worked with the Danish Embassy, the Danish Energy Administration, and Lykke Leonardson, Head of program for Resilient and Sustainable City Solutions for the City of Copenhagen, to bring a delegation, comprising 30 of DC's largest developers, utilities, and senior level government staff, to Copenhagen. The delegation met with Danish business, utility, and government representatives to take one step closer to making district energy and cloudburst management strategies a reality for our city.

Lastly, the Program was an instrumental part of Copenhagen winning the 2019 C40 Mayors summit bid that garnered our full support despite the District competing for the bid as well.

Our collaborations have just begun. We have much work to do and will need to continue to rely heavily on our Copenhagen partners to fully realize our resilience goals.

I appreciate your consideration to maintain and enhance the Resilient and Sustainable City Solutions Program to support and showcase Copenhagen's cloudburst resilience solutions to other cities throughout the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tommy Wells". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tommy" and last name "Wells" clearly distinguishable.

Tommy Wells
Director

Cc: Ambassador Lars Lose, Danish Ambassador to the United States
Mette Sos Lassen, Ramboll
Mads Moller, Archiland