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February 15, 2024

To: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Karen S. Straughn
Consumer Protection Division

Re: Senate Bill 465 – Common Ownership Communities – Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment (Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Act of 2024) (SUPPORT)

The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General submits the following written testimony in support of Senate Bill 465 sponsored by Senator Ariana B. Kelly. This bill establishes procedures to enable members of a cooperative or a condominium to install or use electric vehicle recharging equipment at the member's cost.

With the vigorous development of the electronic vehicle ("EV") market, EV chargers have become an important structure to provide convenience and flexibility for EV users, while also having a positive impact on the environment, energy costs, and sustainable development. EVs can reduce environmental pollution and energy costs, but they require easy access to charging stations. By ensuring that cooperatives and condominiums do not unreasonably restrict or prohibit installation and use by association members, the bill would enable individuals living in common ownership communities to reduce their carbon footprint and better protect our environment. Moreover, since the cost for both the installation and use is borne by the member, there is no negative impact on the community.

For these reasons, we ask that the Judicial Proceedings Committee return a favorable report on this bill.

cc: The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly
Members, Judicial Proceedings Committee