

**TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM D. EUILLE
MAYOR, CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

**HEARING ON CLEAN ENERGY JOBS, CLIMATE-RELATED POLICES AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH – STATE AND LOCAL VIEWS**

Good morning Madame Chair, and members of the committee: my name is William Euille and I am Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia. Thank you for the opportunity to testify about three critical environmental challenges: climate change, clean energy, and the new green economy.

As Mayor and a lifelong resident of Alexandria, I am concerned about the potential impacts climate change may have on a coastal city like Alexandria and our 141,000 residents.

In 2007, Alexandria began a strategic planning process, the *Eco-City Alexandria* initiative, to guide the city over the next 30 years toward becoming a true Eco-City: a place where people can live healthier and economically productive lives, while reducing their environmental impact. City officials, City residents, and staff spent countless hours exploring best practices from communities across the country to develop an environmental plan for the City.

In 2008, City Council adopted the Eco-City Charter, which outlines the vision and guiding principles for Alexandria to become an Eco-City. One year later, Council adopted Environmental Action Plan 2030 as a “road map” for City leaders, staff, and residents to implement the sustainability, visions, and principles set forth in the Eco-City Charter. Only a handful of communities have developed such a comprehensive action plan that includes climate change protection as a critical component. I’d like to tell you about some of the things we are doing to become an Eco-City.

In Alexandria, we recognize the quantity and sources of energy used by local government, businesses and residents affect our environment and quality of life, and we have committed to managing our energy supply and usage in a sustainable manner. A prime example of this commitment is the City’s partnership in an energy-from-waste facility for more than 25 years. This facility generates enough clean, renewable energy to supply power to approximately 20,000 homes via the combustion of municipal solid waste. Diversion of our municipal solid waste from a landfill to the energy-from-waste facility reduces the City’s carbon emissions by approximately 160,000 metric tons annually.

The City also supports energy efficiency and conservation technologies and is working to create a green jobs training program to train residents to perform energy audits; weatherize houses and other buildings; and install solar, wind, geothermal devices, and other clean, renewable energy technologies.

To support the implementation of the Eco-City Environmental Action Plan, Alexandria plans to use some of its Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funding for

- conversion of the City’s street lights and traffic signals to energy efficient LED lamps,
- expansion of the City’s “Green Fleet” program,

- support of green jobs training for weatherization technicians and energy auditors, and
- establishment of a green revolving loan program.

Implementation of these programs and related projects will result in the creation of approximately 15 jobs and reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 19,000 metric tons.

Among Alexandria's other green projects and achievements are

- the new T.C. Williams High School building, which received LEED Gold Certification, and the award-winning design of a green building in a former brownfield that will house a City fire station, retail, and affordable housing;
- adoption of a new City policy that will seek to have all new buildings achieve LEED Silver certification or better;
- completion of the City's greenhouse gas emissions inventory;
- installation of solar panels to provide lighting in bus shelters and of vegetative filter boxes on neighborhood streets to treat and clean roadway runoff.

I've spoken to you today about some of the steps Alexandria has taken to become an Eco-City, and about some of green amenities that make Alexandria a great place to live. However, to fully implement the Eco-City Alexandria initiative goals, we need your support. Such support should include the annual funding of the Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program, increased funding for transit, pedestrian and bicycle projects, and revisions to Federal programs to ensure that they will support a green economy.

Local governments play a critical role in improving energy efficiency, shifting the country to cleaner sources of energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. While partnerships with states and the private sector are essential to successful local actions, the development of effective climate change and clean energy strategies will certainly fall short, without direct appropriation of funding to local governments to supplement the local funds that we will spend. Local governments should have the flexibility to spend direct funds in areas such as capacity building, development of green incentives, outreach and education, and planning efforts like the Eco-City Alexandria initiative. Federal support for these and similar programs would enable communities across the country to build their own Eco-Cities.

Thank you.



Mayor William D. Euille

Mayor William D. Euille is the Founder/President and Chief Executive Officer of Wm. D. Euille & Associates, Inc., formed on April 9, 1987. He is also Chairman of the Board of Directors of the firm, chartered in Washington, DC with offices in Alexandria, Virginia.

Mayor Euille began his business career as an accountant with an Alexandria construction company in 1972, and within eight years, he advanced to Vice President/Controller, ultimately having responsibility for all contracting, financial and administrative functions.

A native of Alexandria, Virginia, Mayor Euille graduated from T.C. Williams High School and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Connecticut in 1972.

The Mayor is active in community affairs in Alexandria and Washington, DC. His dedicated involvement includes the William D. Euille Foundation, which he founded in 1994; the Alexandria Boys and Girls Club; the American Heart Association; 1998-2000 Chairman of the Alexandria United Way Campaign; INOVA Hospital Health System Board; Hopkins House Association; 2001 Chairman of the NOVA Urban League Board of Directors; and the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. He is a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Alexandria.

He is also active in business and construction industry organizations such as the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce; the US Chamber of Commerce; National Association of Minority Contractors; Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc; and the NOVA Building Industry Association.

Mayor Euille has received many major awards and honors, such as the 1994 Entrepreneur of the Year from the Virginia NAACP (The Mayor was the inaugural winner of this award); *Who's Who in the East*; *Who's Who in America*; 1995 Community Service Award from the Hopkins House Association; Outstanding Young Men of America Award; 1996 Blue Chip Award from the US Chamber of Commerce; the 1996 Entrepreneur of the Year from the *Washington Post* and Ernst & Young, LLP; the 1996 Small Business Person of the Year from the US Small Business Administration; and community service awards from the Alexandria NAACP (1996), Northern Virginia Urban League, Inc. (1997), Alexandria Chamber of Commerce (1997), and the Alexandria Sportsman Club (1998); Philanthropist of the Year 2000 from the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce; SBA's Graduate of the Year Award in 2000; Education Association of Alexandria's "Whole Village Award" (2001); and the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year (2001).

Additionally, Mayor Euille is a major donor to many service and non-profit organizations which serve youth; provide funding for educational and recreational initiatives; and which help promote self-sufficiency for those less fortunate. Through the William D. Euille Foundation, he contributes

more than \$50,000 for various causes; additionally, the firm Wm. D. Euille & Associates contributes more than \$20,000 to the community.

Mayor Euille was elected to a three-year term on the Alexandria City Council in May, 1994. He was re-elected in May, 1997 (Vice Mayor) and in May, 2000. He was elected the City's first African-American Mayor in May, 2003 and was re-elected Mayor in May, 2006 and May, 2009. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority; the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA); the Alexandria Pension Study Committee; and the Local Emergency Planning Commission. He is Secretary/Treasurer of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and Vice-President of the Virginia Transit Authority. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the Eisenhower Partnership; the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership; and the Chesapeake Crescent.

Additionally, he serves as the Co-Chair of City Council Task Forces on Affordable Housing and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project. He is Chairman of the Alexandria Youth Policy Commission and serves on the Governor's Council on Virginia's Future.