



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

WILL ANDERSON, *Director*
Department of Economic and
Workforce Development

BILL NO.: **SB 185**

TITLE: Baltimore County – Sales and Use Tax Exemption – Qualified Opportunity Zones

SPONSOR: Senator Jennings

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 29, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 185 – Baltimore County – Sales and Use Tax Exemption – Qualified Opportunity Zones. This bill provides an exemption from the sales and use tax for certain construction material or warehousing equipment purchased solely for use in a specified opportunity zone.

SB 185 will promote redevelopment of the Aviation Station site, previously known as the Middle River Depot. Baltimore County considers this two million square foot project to be a priority and is supportive of efforts that will help in advance. The Aviation Station facility is slated to become one of the largest Real Estate Opportunity Zone developments in the Mid-Atlantic and is expected to spur economic development and create thousands of jobs. A MARC train station is located within a couple hundred yards of the property, creating a transit-oriented and sustainable commercial real estate development that is rare in Baltimore County.

Aviation Station will be a part of the broader rebirth of eastern Baltimore County that all includes the progress being made at Tradepoint Atlantic. In 2016, the State passed similar legislation to provide support to the Tradepoint Atlantic site by helping to attract a billion dollars in private investment. Passage of SB 185 will help continue this trend of economic revitalization in eastern Baltimore County.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests **FAVORABLE** report on SB 185. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Anderson", followed by the date "1/29/2020".

Will Anderson
Director, Economic and Workforce Development