



February 16, 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve

Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

House Office Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Re: Support-HB877- Workgroup on Adaptive Reuse of Vacant Commercial Spaces

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) is the trade organization representing the shopping center industry. Worldwide, the association maintains over 60,000 members. In Maryland, ICSC represents the interest of more than 1,000 shopping centers in every county and municipality in the State and supports approximately 240,000 jobs.

This forward looking legislation that seeks to improve existing communities by revitalizing older commercial properties into residential, mixed use and new commercial centers. The bill seeks to utilize existing State programs and potentially create new ones, integrating incentives and creating a one-stop shop for revitalization. This legislation can make this effort easier for the development community and likely accelerate positive efforts.

On behalf of the ICSC community, I urge a favorable report for HB877.

Sincerely,

Mickey Papillon, ICSC Governmental Relations Chair

For questions related to this testimony, please contact Sushant Sidh at 410-268-3099.