

# **CWDI Testimony Support re SB955.pdf**

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**CAMBRIDGE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT, INC.**

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CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND 21613

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**Testimony in Support - Senate Bill 955**

Local Government Tort Claims Act – Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc.

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Virtual Bill Hearing

Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc. (CWDI) supports passage of Senate Bill 955, which will include CWDI under the Local Government Tort Claims Act (LGTCA) for purposes of reducing its costs of insurance and limiting future liability exposure – given the public purpose mission of the corporate entity to relieve certain burdens of local government.

CWDI is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt economic development corporation established by the City of Cambridge (City) and Dorchester County (County) in furtherance of an intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (April 2018) to cooperatively plan, promote and oversee the redevelopment of the Cambridge waterfront. The County and City have shared equally in CWDI operational costs.

As both the City and County are Members of the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT), there is interest in exploring comprehensive liability and property coverage for CWDI as a Sponsored Public Entity pursuant to the LGIT Trust Agreement, particularly as CWDI is expected to begin taking ownership and control of various properties within the CWDI Planning Envelope in 2021 and thereby assuming more risks. Eligibility for Sponsored Entity Coverage via LGIT is conditioned upon the Sponsored Entity (CWDI) being included as a “local government” under the LGTCA.

We thank Senator Eckardt for sponsoring this timely legislation on behalf of the City, County and CWDI, and respectfully request the Committee’s favorable consideration.

Contact: Sandra Tripp-Jones, Executive Director  
Charles D. MacLeod, General Counsel

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Testimony for Senate Bill 955  
Local Government Tort Claims Act - Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc.  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
March 25, 2021

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 955 - Local Government Tort Claims Act - Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc.

Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc. (CWDI) was established in 2018 by the Cambridge City Council and the Dorchester County Council. Since 2018, CWDI has fostered community partnerships and relationships, while planning for mixed-use redevelopment along the Cambridge Waterfront.

Senate Bill 955 alters the Local Government Tort Claims Act to include CWDI under "Local Government". This bill will provide protections through the act, similar to ones afforded to other economic development entities across the State.

As Dorchester County and Cambridge continue to grow and redevelop, CWDI will continue to be an important partner. Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 955.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt