



Senate Bill 516

Equitable and Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: February 16, 2022

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 516. This bill would generally expand access to State economic development benefits under the More Jobs for Marylanders Program to businesses located in transit-oriented developments.

County governments, just as the State, have a vested interest in economic development. Local economic growth creates jobs and increases salaries, expanding the tax base both locally and statewide. Counties promote economic development through their own programs and coordinate with the State to attract and retain businesses where they are most beneficial to our economy.

Transit-oriented development creates dense, walkable, and mixed-use spaces near transit that support vibrant, sustainable, and equitable communities. Transit-oriented development provides an opportunity to leverage smart growth strategies to encourage economic development, reduce sprawl, and maximize the return on existing transit investment.

The More Jobs for Marylanders Program helps incentivize businesses to locate or expand into several low-income or underserved urban and rural communities across Maryland. This in turn creates jobs, contributes to enhancing quality of life, and bolsters the local tax base – enabling counties to better provide core services for their residents.

SB 516 would incentivize private investment in transit-oriented communities to encourage economic growth, create jobs, and promote environmental sustainability. As such, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 516.