



# Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore, Inc.

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March 28, 2022

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair  
Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building Room 131  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SB 0453**

Honorable Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Committee:

I am the Executive Director of Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore (NHS), and a resident of Baltimore City. Our organization believes that economic and social justice are a right for all residents and communities. We promote this belief by removing barriers of access to homeownership, helping resident access resources to maintain their homes, and supporting communities historically impacted by systemic disinvestment.

Our organization works primarily in the space of homeownership creation, homeownership preservation and comprehensive community development. When we completed Walbrook Mill, a 65-unit apartment building on W. North Avenue, we intentionally began looking for ways to increase economic development and workforce development at the Walbrook Mill site on the back lot. We have been having conversations with various organizations, including OpenWorks, regarding the need for opportunities that align with the makerspace initiative.

NHS of Baltimore is helping to bring vitality back to West Baltimore and are fully supportive of any bill that would support the expansion and establishment of further makerspaces in the State of Maryland, especially Baltimore City. We ask that the Committee issue a *favorable* report on SB 0453.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Ellis  
Executive Director

