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Budget and Taxation Committee  
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker  
Senate Bill 273 – National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund -  
Authorized Uses  
House Appropriations Committee  
March 23, 2023  
1:00pm  
Position: SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chairman Barnes, Vice Chair Change, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support** of **Senate Bill 273 – National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund - Authorized Uses**.

Each year, \$7 million is included in either the operating or capital budget to be distributed under the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund. The program provides financial assistance to specified government agencies, entities controlled by housing authorities, and community development organizations in the national capital region for community enhancement projects.

The Senate unanimously passed SB 273 in a different posture than its crossfile, House Bill 1228, that was heard in this committee last week. The amendments altered the funding allocation to \$12 million in the fund beginning in Fiscal Year 2025 and beyond.

I urge the committee for a favorable report on Senate Bill 273. Thank you for your kind consideration.