

SB0273 --National Capital Strategic Economic Devel

Uploaded by: Brian Levine

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 273 -- National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund - Authorized Uses
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 8, 2023
Support

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports Senate Bill 273 -- *National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund - Authorized Uses*.

Senate Bill 273 repeals a provision of law requiring 100% of the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund to be used for community enhancement projects in sustainable communities located, at least in part, within the boundary created by Interstate 495 in the State and the District of Columbia beginning in fiscal year 2024.

MCCC supports efforts to enhance revitalization of communities in the Metro Maryland region. The Chamber also supports the mission of the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund, which provides funding to support commercial and residential activities in areas targeted for revitalization. The program attempts to focus on areas where modest investment and a coordinated strategy will have an appreciable neighborhood revitalization impact.

Sustainable communities in targeted areas are ripe for revitalization of commercial and residential properties within the footprint outlined in Senate Bill 273. The bill encourages homebuying and rehabilitation, removing blighted properties, energy efficiency efforts, and development of affordable housing. MCCC supports any effort that grows the stock of affordable housing so employees can live closer to employment in the Metro Maryland region.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports Senate Bill 273 and respectfully requests a favorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

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MHP_Favorable_SB273 -NED.pdf

Uploaded by: Chris Gillis

Position: FAV

**Testimony to the Senate Budget and Taxation
SB 273 - National Capital Strategic Economic Development Program – Authorized Uses**

Position: Favorable

Good afternoon Mister Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chris Gillis and I'm testifying on behalf of MHP to urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 273.

By way of background, MHP is a non-profit affordable housing provider with apartment communities located throughout Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

As the committee knows, the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund, or NED, supports residential and commercial neighborhood revitalization activities in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. NED is critical to ensuring that we maintain a diverse mix of affordable housing options in high-cost jurisdictions and to positioning small businesses to survive and thrive in today's economy.

Most recently, MHP has received NED funding to support the production or rehab of affordable housing in North Bethesda, Wheaton, and Takoma Park, as well as funding for the restoration of a blighted historic building in the Long Branch neighborhood of Silver Spring.

In the 2021 session, the General Assembly passed legislation that expanded the eligibility areas for the program in both Montgomery and Prince George's County; however, during conference committee, a sunset provision was attached to the expanded area in Montgomery County. SB 273 is a technical change that would eliminate the sunset and make the eligibility changes permanent. Without this legislation, the eligibility area would revert back to neighborhoods only within the Capital Beltway in Montgomery County. As a result, affordable housing and community development projects from Montgomery County would be severely disadvantaged because many of the neighborhoods that are most in need of investment in the County are outside the Capital Beltway. This legislation ensures that we are directing state funding to where it is most needed in Montgomery and Prince George's County.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB273_Zucker_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Craig Zucker

Position: FAV

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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
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 8, 2023
1:00pm
Position: SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe, 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.

Senate Bill 273 repeals certain provisions of the law that requires the projects only be within the boundary created by Interstate 495. The funds will continue to only be used for community enhancements projects in sustainable communities located:

- 1) in Prince George's County, at least in part, within the boundary created by Interstate 495 in the State and the District of Columbia; or
- 2) in Montgomery County, within an enterprise zone or the boundary created by:
 - a. Prince George's County;
 - b. Maryland Route 200;
 - c. Interstate 270
 - d. Interstate 495 to the Maryland state line; and
 - e. the District of Columbia.

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