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**BILL NO.:**                **SB 166**

**TITLE:**                 Housing and Community Development - Adaptive Reuse

**SPONSOR:**            Senator Waldstreicher

**COMMITTEE:**        Education, Energy, and the Environment

**POSITION:**           **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                 February 7, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 166 – Housing and Community Development - Adaptive Reuse. This clarifying legislation would establish that adaptive reuse, retrofitting and repurposing of existing buildings to develop new affordable multifamily housing is an eligible use of funds distributed by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Adaptive reuse is a critical tool for leveraging existing infrastructure to create new, affordable housing. Buildings which are vacant or no longer used for their original intended purpose have incredible potential to bolster local housing stock. It is for these very reasons that the Baltimore County Department of Housing and Community Development has a team dedicated solely to seeking out and identifying existing buildings which would be eligible for adaptive reuse.

Some jurisdictions have expressed concern that as written, existing state statute does not affirmatively grant the right to utilize DHCD funds for adaptive reuse projects. This legislation clarifies that those projects are an eligible use of those funds.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 166. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).