



Chair Brian Feldman
and Members, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 8, 2024

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

My name is Dan Reed and I serve as the Regional Policy Director for [Greater Greater Washington](#), a nonprofit that works to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice in land use, transportation, and housing throughout Greater Washington. **GGWash supports Senate Bill 333, Housing and Community Development - Affordable Housing - Identifying Suitable Property.**

This bill would direct the Department of Housing and Community Development, when looking for state-owned land ideal for affordable housing development, to only identify sites within Priority Funding Areas. PFAs generally represent the most built-up areas within Maryland counties, places with existing infrastructure such as roads and utility lines. These are the places where each county wants development to go, and in turn, the state has agreed to fund new infrastructure where needed.


Adding this criteria accomplishes several goals: it makes the best use of taxpayer resources, including state-owned property and public infrastructure; it directs investment to established communities instead of promoting suburban sprawl; and it gives the future residents of affordable housing easy access to daily needs, such as transportation, jobs, schools, and shopping.

Senate Bill 333 is a small but useful tweak to the state's approach to affordable housing, ensuring that public land can be used for public good. We ask the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to give this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Reed'.

Dan Reed
Regional Policy Director

The Washington, DC region is great  and it can be greater.