

Chair Brian Feldman and Members, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee 2 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 22, 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 <u>Greater Greater Washington</u>, a nonprofit that works to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice in land use, transportation, and housing throughout Greater Washington. **GGWash supports Senate Bill 483, the Housing and Community Development Financing Act**, which would create a new, innovative funding source for affordable housing and community development.

As written, this bill would establish the Maryland Community Investment Corporation, which would use federal new market tax credits to lend money for community development projects around the state, which include but aren't limited to affordable housing. Ironically, financing is a significant barrier to investment in the places where investment is needed most. By directing funds to these places, this bill would help generate much needed homes and economic opportunities.

We applaud Governor Moore and Secretary Day for their leadership on housing issues in Maryland, and urge the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to give this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Dan Reed Regional Policy Director

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