



Chair Marc Korman
and Members, Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 6, 2024

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation 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 House Bill 131, Housing Development Permit Applications - Local Reporting Requirements**, with amendments.

As will be said many times this session, Maryland faces a shortage of 96,000 homes.¹ We must do everything we can to increase housing production, which includes tracking how many homes are built. This bill would require counties with over 250,000 people to track how many homes they're permitting and how quickly permits are granted, then report those figures to the Department of Housing and Community Development and share them publicly.

HB 131 is an important first step to addressing our housing shortage, but it needs a mechanism to hold local governments accountable for providing their fair share of homes. We propose amending this bill to include housing targets for each county based on its projected population and employment growth. The permitting data collected could then better illustrate the state's progress in addressing the housing shortage.


We appreciate the Environment and Transportation Committee's consideration of our recommendations, and look forward to working with you to solve Maryland's housing crisis.

Sincerely,

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

Dan Reed
Regional Policy Director

¹ <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Documents/Other%20Publications/Report.pdf>

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