



Senate Bill 953

Housing - Community Development Program Act - Funding

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: February 28, 2024

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 953. This bill would provide an additional \$5 million to the Community Development Program (CDP), a critical tool in county efforts to enable more affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization.

The economic reverberations from the COVID-19 pandemic are still felt in nearly all parts of the economy, but nowhere more so than in the housing market. Due to a variety of historic and economic factors, the production and preservation of affordable housing stock has lagged behind the growth of our society. Today, the cost of housing has become a significant line item in many household budgets, far exceeding the longtime standard of 30 percent of gross income.

SB 953 would help to address this production and preservation deficit by providing additional resources to the CDP, which can be used for addressing affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization. Investing in these elements is critical to overcoming the current challenges of the housing market. Counties cannot solve the housing crisis alone and welcome any state support to further this effort.

If enacted, SB 953 would provide new resources to further the development of affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 953 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.