



TESTIMONY FOR SB0327
Affordable Housing Payment In Lieu of Taxes Expansion Act

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hettleman

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0327 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

There are many things we can do to have an effect on the lack of affordable housing in the state. Many of those things take time – building more housing, or converting housing. This bill provides another, more immediate solution.

If enacted, this bill would allow the owner of a rental housing complex to enter into an agreement with the county to maintain at least 15% of their units as affordable housing for at least 15 years in exchange for a negotiated reduction in county property taxes.

Yes, this means less county income from property taxes, but it will get more people housed and able to get into the job market much more quickly, which our members agree is an important goal for the state.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.