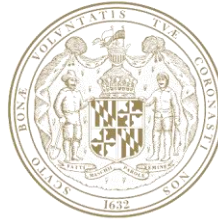


JEFFERSON L. GHRIST
Co-CHAIR

NATALIE ZIEGLER
Co-CHAIR



H. KEVIN ANDERSON
TERRY BAKER
KEVIN B. HORNBERGER
ANDRE V. JOHNSON, JR.
STEVE JOHNSON
SHEREE SAMPLE-HUGHES

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
HOUSE RURAL CAUCUS

February 26, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins
Chair, Ways & Means Committee
131 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Wilkins and Honorable Members of the Ways & Means Committee:

On behalf of the Rural Caucus, we are writing to express our support for **HB 161 Property Tax Credit - Retail Service Station Conversions**.

As advocates for rural Main Streets, rural economies, and the rural small business community, we believe encouraging the redevelopment of former service stations can have a profound impact for Rural Maryland. Often these service stations can be found derelict in the heart of rural towns, serving as an eyesore in the community and impediment to the local economy. Repurposing them for a retail or residential purpose can spark economic growth and meaningfully improve quality-of-life in rural municipalities.

For these reasons, the Rural Caucus supports HB 161 and requests a favorable report.

Thank you,

Handwritten signature of Jefferson L. Ghrist in black ink.

Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist
Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Natalie Ziegler in black ink.

Delegate Natalie Ziegler
Co-Chair