

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chairman, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senate Office Building, 3 West
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of Senate Bill 978 (Historic Revitalization Tax Credit - Transferability, Funding, and Extension (Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Improvement Act of 2020))

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, supports Senate Bill 978 (Historic Revitalization Tax Credit - Transferability, Funding, and Extension (Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Improvement Act of 2020)).

This measure extends the Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program and increases its funding and maximum value of commercial credits under the program. Continuing to invest in this program will encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation and re-use of historic buildings, which promotes investment in local economies. It has a proven record: the Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program is credited with rehabilitating about 4,400 historic buildings and creating some 25,000 jobs since its implementation in 1996. The state's investment of about \$350 million has reached into all of Maryland's 23 counties and the city of Baltimore. The Abell Foundation has estimated that about 73 jobs are created for each \$1 million in tax credits and every dollar invested generates \$8.53 in economic activity.¹

Securing future financial support for the Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program will enable future rehabilitation and reuse of underutilized historic properties, which contributes to healthy economic development throughout the State.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee Members

¹ Maryland Historical Trust, Department of Planning, <https://mht.maryland.gov/taxcredits.shtml>