

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Larry Hogan Administration

FROM: Bishop Dr. J.L. Carter, Senior Pastor of the Ark Church, President of the Ministers Conference  
of Baltimore and Vicinity

DATE: February 11, 2020

RE: Wheelabrator's Commitment to Cleaner, Safer Baltimore Communities

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Good morning to the committee. Thank you for letting me submit comments regarding Wheelabrator's commitment to the Ark Church congregation and surrounding Oliver community, as well as the Ministers Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity.

In 2018, Wheelabrator Baltimore created the We Can Bmore campaign to reduce waste, promote recycling and clean up our streets from litter and debris. Soon after, the Ministers Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity worked with Wheelabrator's We Can Bmore campaign to create the Green Ambassador teams, a two-year commitment to hiring local workers from our congregation and community to clean litter off the streets surrounding the Ark Church in Oliver, Union Baptist Memorial in Upton, Liberty Grace Church in Ashburton and Bethany Baptist in Brooklyn.

Our dedicated workforce of four community members at each location show up to work two days every week to pick up trash off the streets. We know that cleaner streets are safer streets. And Wheelabrator's commitment allows us to join with our neighbors to reduce litter, increase recycling and ensure our communities reflect the sense of pride we take in them.

The Green Ambassador teams are not only helping beautify our neighborhoods by picking up trash. We are also work together with Wheelabrator to educate our neighbors about what can and can't be recycled. And provide residents with free recycling bins donated by Wheelabrator, so that everyone can do their part to help minimize waste and support the environment.

Prior to Wheelabrator's support through the We Can Bmore program, our community had a small group of volunteers that would gather to clean the block surrounding our church on Sunday's before worship. But with the weekly commitment from Wheelabrator, we reach many city blocks and can barely find trash on our streets. With the weekly commitment, our Green Ambassadors are able to speak with community members about reducing waste, and helping to clean the areas around their home, so that the movement grows beyond the Churches. The Green Ambassador teams are managed by two local landscaping and hauling companies that employ entry-level and returning citizens to break into the workforce. Just this week, one of our Green Ambassadors was offered a full-time, entry-level position at Wheelabrator where he will make a good wage, have opportunity for training and growth and receive benefits on day one. This is life-changing for a member of our communities who are starved for good-paying jobs and opportunity.

In addition to the Green Ambassador teams, Wheelabrator's We Can Bmore brought Wheelabrator employees, volunteers, dumpsters and trucks to clear dumped or bulk trash from alleys to the Oliver community where we paired with seven other churches in the area. On one fall day, we cleaned more than 18,000 gallons of trash throughout the Oliver and Johnston Square communities. We gathered after the cleanup for prayer and fellowship where members of the community felt like with the Company's support, they could see the path for cleaner, safer streets and vowed to take care of their own stoops and sidewalks. Our Green Ambassador movement continues to grow.

Since the Ministers Conference and Wheelabrator's We Can Bmore formed our partnership, we've seen a world of difference in both the citizens and community. The greatest joy from our efforts has been seeing our neighbors' excitement and willingness to participate. Having the dedicated support of Wheelabrator to locally hire and manage a team that keeps our streets clean, engage neighbors to pitch in and build community on a

larger level is priceless. Please support companies, like Wheelabrator, that support Baltimore communities and our residents.

Thank you,

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