

March 3, 2020

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of House Bill 1301 (Property Tax - Appeals of Assessments - Commercial Real Property)

Dear Chairwoman Kaiser:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, supports House Bill 1301 (Property Tax - Appeals of Assessments - Commercial Real Property).

This bill authorizes local governments to grant a property tax credit for the eligible assessment of qualified opportunity zone property if the taxpayer has invested at least \$100,000 in the opportunity zone property. This credit could make a significant difference to business that invest in opportunity zones. Opportunity Zones were created to stimulate private investment in underinvested communities by providing enhanced incentives for qualifying businesses within an opportunity zone. Tax credits encourage new investment interest in these zones, and help free up financial resources for businesses already involved to quickly reinvest in a new project in the same neighborhood. Communities are strengthened and made safer with consistent investment, and the current structure helps businesses have the financial flexibility they need to help with that process.

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: House Ways and Means Committee Members