



**Testimony to the Environment Health and Education Committee
SB 367 – Housing and Community Development – Neighborhood
Revitalization programs – Application Requirements
Position: OPPOSE**

MAHC Opposes SB 367

The Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition (MAHC) is a strong advocate for affordable rental housing programs in Maryland and works closely with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to create affordable housing across the state. Several years ago, we worked with our industry partners and the Legislature to remove similar letter of support requirements from DHCD programs and to make the application requirements uniform across all DHCD programs. Housing and community development project applications should be reviewed based on criteria established by DHCD to further their goals and ensure an equitable and fair review process and should not include any political approval process. SB 367 would re-instate these requirements for certain programs by requiring a letter of support from the legislative district where the project is located. We would suggest that DHCD simply notify the legislative district when applications are received, similar to the notification process already in place for local jurisdictions.

MAHC is the leading organization for the affordable rental housing industry in Maryland and has over 185 member organizations, including non-profit and for-profit developers, community action groups, state and local housing authorities, property management companies, financial institutions, community development organizations, contractors, investors, consultants and individuals.

Respectfully submitted on February 5, 2021 by Miranda Darden-Willems, on behalf of the MAHC Board of Directors.

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