



# CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

The Honorable Emily Keller

Mayor

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February 16, 2021

House Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building, Room 131  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401  
Annapolis, MD 21401

## RE: OPPOSITION to Bill HB0805 – Economic Development – Enterprise Zone Program – Alterations

Dear Ways and Means Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of Hagerstown, I am writing you in opposition of Bill HB805 which is being considered by the Maryland Legislature altering the circumstances under which the Secretary of Commerce may designate an area as an enterprise zone; prohibiting the Secretary from designating a new enterprise zone or granting an expansion of an existing enterprise zone under certain circumstances; and altering a certain limitation on the area by which an existing enterprise zone may be expanded.

Our position is based on the experience Hagerstown property owners and businesses have had with the use of the Enterprise Zone Tax Credit program. Just one example is NorthPoint Development who is currently constructing 2.2 million sq/ft warehousing, distribution and ecommerce fulfillment business park project located in the City of Hagerstown and Washington County, MD.

Decision makers involved in this legislation should be very aware that NorthPoint Development's nearly \$139 million-dollar investment into the State of Maryland would have been driven to a neighboring state where more business-friendly tax incentive environments exist.

The proposed alterations negatively impact distressed census tracts by limiting growth to existing zones. The bill will eliminate growth opportunities for struggling areas by making the Enterprise Zone inaccessible and reducing development opportunities.

We strongly encourage you to oppose this bill. Please consider the well-paying jobs just this one project alone stands to create. NorthPoint Development is just one national developer that found the Enterprise Zone and pro-business environment offered by Maryland welcoming. We view this bill as degrading that climate, and we offer you the success story of NorthPoint Development as evidence.

Sincerely,

**THE CITY OF HAGERSTOWN**

Emily Keller  
Mayor

C: Hagerstown City Council

Scott Nicewarner, City Administrator

Jill Thompson, Director of Community & Economic Development

