



**AIA**  
**Maryland**

*Promoting Maryland Architecture Since 1965*

February 12, 2021

Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Chair  
House Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for HB 0865  
Historic Revitalization Tax Credit - Small Commercial Projects - Alterations

Dear Delegate Kaiser:

We are writing to offer AIA Maryland's support for House Bill 0865 to replenish the Historic Revitalization Tax Credit (HRTC). When it was established in 2015, the Small Commercial Maryland HRTC received an authorization for the Maryland Historical Trust to certify up to \$4 million in credits. Since that time, typical projects have received much-needed credits ranging from \$5,000-\$500,000 in Qualified Rehabilitation Expenditures.

Unfortunately, the initial authorized amount was depleted this past summer as a result of recent policy changes, such as an inclusion of non-commercial properties and because of the overall popularity of the program as a tool for community revitalization. This proposed bill would immediately replenish the authorization with a \$1 million ask. With a per-project cap of \$50,000, this amount would fund at least 20 vital projects in Maryland.

AIA Maryland represents almost 2,000 Architects in the state of Maryland. Many of our members conduct research, advocate for, and successfully work on historic tax credit projects. We believe that Maryland must continue to fund community revitalization programs that are working. Every dollar invested in the HRTC yields the state \$8.13 in economic activity, which has resulted in over \$32 million since the program's creation. Local property taxes are increased by an average of 25% from this work, and is a cost-effective way to focus investment in historically disinvested communities. Additionally, every \$1 million invested by the state creates 49 jobs during a construction period. If an added \$1 million is authorized for the Maryland Historical Trust, the state should expect an \$8 million return. This significant profit encourages the redevelopment of smaller projects taken on by individuals or small businesses. Increased funding for historic tax credits would result in more projects like this, returning exponentially more to the state treasury than they would cost.

We encourage you to vote in favor of this legislation and encourage Maryland's continued commitment and investment in Historic Revitalization Tax Credits. Thank you for your consideration and your vote!

Sincerely

  
Jennifer Verbeke, AIA  
President, AIA Maryland

  
Barton Ross, AIA  
Director, AIA Maryland

cc: Ways and Means Committee:

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