



# POSITION STATEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

**HOUSE BILL 1137 - PROPERTY TAX CREDIT –  
BUSINESS ENTITIES – STATE OF EMERGENCY  
Sponsor – Delegate Kerr**

**February 23, 2021**

**DONALD C. FRY  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

**Position: Support**

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports House Bill 1137 which would authorize local governments to grant a property tax credit against that jurisdiction's property tax imposed on real or personal property that was owned or leased by a business entity during a state of emergency. The local government would be authorized to design the program by determining the amount and duration of the credit, any eligibility criteria for the credit, and any regulations and procedures necessary to implement the program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put unprecedented economic pressure on businesses throughout Maryland, especially small and minority businesses that often lack the resources for capital to sustain a significant loss in revenue for an extended period.

Allowing local governments to grant a property tax credit to struggling businesses gives those local governments another method to provide support to local businesses. Such a tax credit would result in much needed relief to business owners who are attempting to weather the pandemic and be positioned to recover once it has been contained.

This bill is consistent with the GBC's *2021 Legislative Priorities* which advocate for inclusive policies and programs that strengthen economic competitiveness and job creation. The bill is also consistent with the Greater Baltimore Committee's report, *Gaining a Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation*, that calls for government leadership to unite with business as a partner. Enabling local governments to grant this tax credit is a way for government to support local businesses during these challenging economic times.

**For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on House Bill 1137.**

*The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 66-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.*

**GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

111 South Calvert Street • Suite 1700 • Baltimore, Maryland • 21202-6180

(410) 727-2820 • [www.gbc.org](http://www.gbc.org)