



PRESERVING & TELLING BALTIMORE'S STORIES

10 February 2021

Del. Stephanie Smith
316 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Smith,

As President of the Baltimore City Historical Society, I am writing in support of the Small Commercial Historic Revitalization Tax Credit bill (HB865/SB659) which would authorize MHT to issue up to \$1 million in credits. While greater funding would be ideal, this proposal will keep the program alive and functioning. The simple fact that initial funding has been depleted speaks to the popularity of and need for the program. Compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* and MHT's review process encourage a historically appropriate and architecturally sensitive approach to these renovations that otherwise might not be achieved. Additionally, as a design professional, I have experienced the program's benefit as a key tool for neighborhood revitalization. Many of our non-profit clients pursue this credit as a necessary means to undertake these small but involved and thorough renovations. Seeing the effect that even just a few of these completed projects has on the overall well-being of a neighborhood is evident to residents and visitors alike. Local non-profits are acutely aware of their neighborhood's needs and this tax credit allows them to act on what they do best. Furthermore, this tax credit is an important means of encouraging high quality design and historic preservation here in Baltimore.

Sincerely,

Heather Hairston, BCHS President