



**Bill No.:** HB805

**Title:** Economic Development - Enterprise Zone Program - Alterations

**Committee:** Ways and Means

**Hearing Date:** February 18, 2021

**Position:** Support

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Dear Chair Kaiser,

I am writing in support of HB805 - Economic Development - Enterprise Zone Program - Alterations, which would improve public reporting in one of Maryland's largest business tax break programs, while reining in the program's accelerating growth. Since the start of 2021 I have had the pleasure of serving as Executive Director of Maryland Rise and advocating for investment into schools, transportation and healthcare.

Maryland Rise works to ensure that our state government and economy work for the majority of residents. HB805 will help address the current loopholes in Maryland's tax code and ensure the intended economic development goals of the legislation are met. Larger firms should not be able to utilize Enterprise Zone tax credits when they are not creating jobs and not spurring investment in the community. Strengthening reporting, limiting expansion, and phasing out the income tax credit currently offered in the Enterprise Zone program will ensure that resources placed into the program will benefit the Maryland communities.

Every Marylander deserves a secure and prosperous life for themselves and their families, and cleaning up Maryland's tax code will get us one step closer. I urge that the state invest in our schools and other programs that benefit our communities in need instead of reinforcing large businesses ability to take advantage of Maryland's tax code.

Thank you,

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