HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE =

The Honorable Guy Gazzone Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

March 30, 2022

RE: HB 1186 – Property Tax Credit – Elderly Individuals, Veterans, and Surviving Spouses – Alterations (As Amended) – SUPPORT

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my **SUPPORT** for **HB 1186 – Property Tax Credit – Elderly Individuals, Veterans, and Surviving Spouses – Alterations,** as amended by the House of Delegates and before you today.

As presented, this legislation would allow Baltimore City, a County, or a Municipality to extend from the current 5 years to 10 years the duration of a property tax credit (up to a maximum assessed value of \$650,000) offered by that jurisdiction to any of their respective residents at least age 65, a veteran or active duty member of the United States military, a surviving spouse of a veteran who has not remarried, and/or an eligible veteran with a service-connected disability who meet the criteria as set forth under the Maryland Property Tax Article and their respective local government Code or Charter.

Our Administration was one of the first to implement this program when it was put in place four years ago. With this program, we have been able to provide some financial relief to a number of our senior citizens and our veterans. Absent this extension, however, this program will reach its five-year limit and no longer be available for those who helped up pioneer this benefit.

Your **FAVORABLE** vote on this legislation will help extend this program for those eligible citizens who clearly will benefit from this tax credit. It is but a small sacrifice we can make for those who through their years of dedicated service to our Country and to our communities have given us so much more.

Thank you for your consideration.

MARYLAND'S NEW CENTER OF OPPORTUNITY

Sincerely,

Barry Glassman Harford County Executive