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Legislative District 14  
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Budget and Taxation Committee  
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker**  
**Senate Bill 608 - Report on the Public or Private Conversion of State Property**  
**to Affordable Housing**  
**Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee**  
**February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

Good Afternoon Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of Senate Bill 608 - Report on the Public or Private Conversion of State Property to Affordable Housing.**

According to a 2020 study by the National Center for Smart Growth and Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Maryland needs to make big changes to its housing ecosystem to keep homes affordable over the next 10 years. This is an ecosystem that includes a variety of housing options with a focus on home ownership for working families.

Senate Bill 608 requires the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) and the Department of General Services (DGS) to create a survey of unused, surplus private and public State property for potential conversion into affordable housing – especially properties near public transportation, existing commercial developments, and new commercial developments. This legislation is a first-step to expand options for affordable housing for Maryland working families.

This legislation would take effect July 1, 2022, and terminates June 30, 2024. The findings from this study will be reported by June 30, 2023 to the Board of Public Works, and the Maryland General Assembly.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 608. Thank you for your kind consideration.